6 x 6 = 36

# Garry Sobers

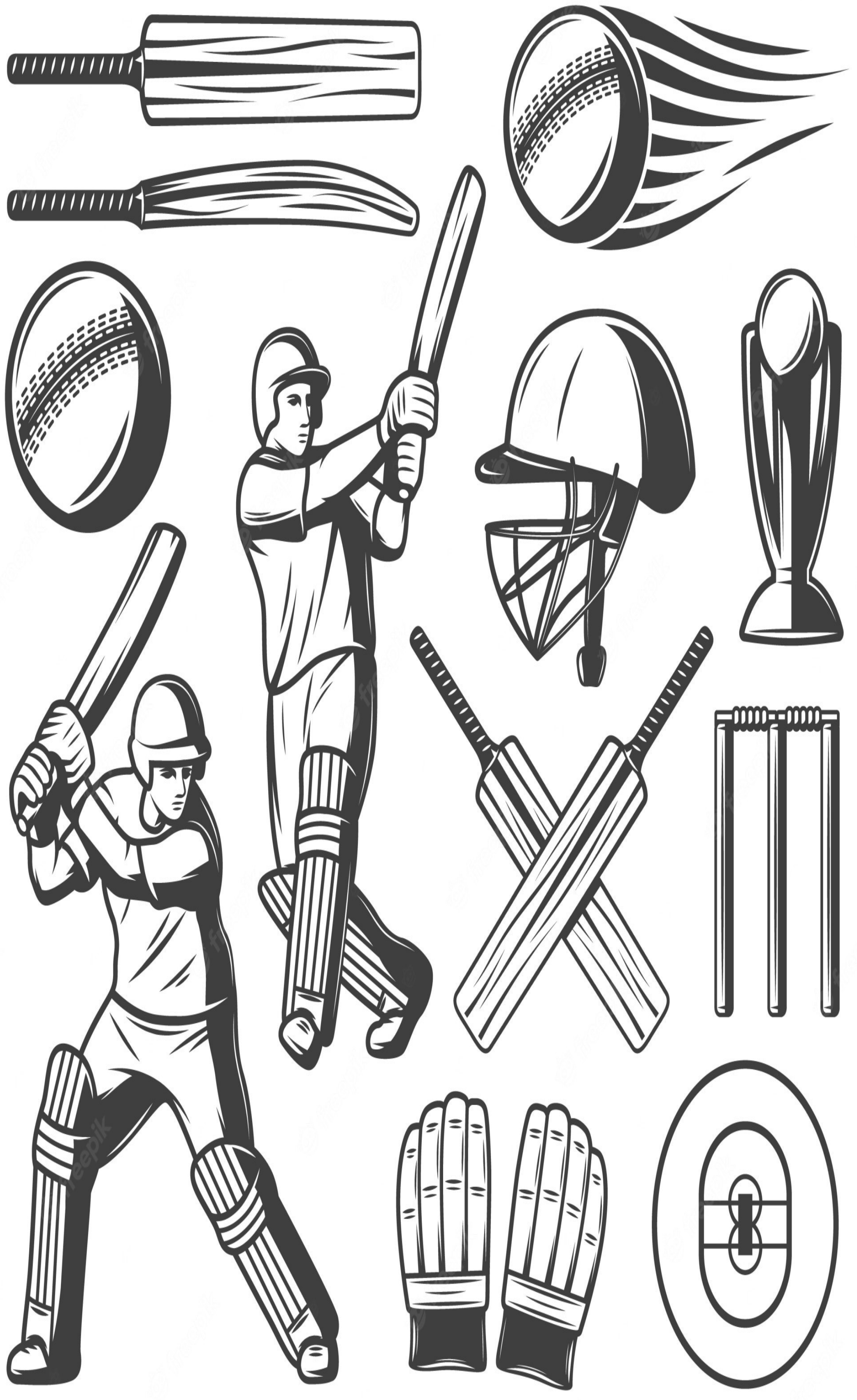
All-time All-Rounder

"Bradman himself called Sobers the "five-in-one cricketer", and with good reason: apart from being an outstanding batsman and fielder, Sobers the bowler was so versatile that he could bowl three different styles - left-arm seam and swing, slow left-arm orthodox, and left-arm wrist spin. Sobers' skills with the ball allowed West Indies to often play an extra batsman - in fact, it was almost as if they were playing with 12 members in the team."

365* = 5.1 + 38.4 + 6.3 + 30.2 + 130.1

## Department of Physical Education and Sports


Dr. M.G.R.
EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY
University with Graded Autonomy Status
(An ISO 21001 : 2018 Certified Institution)
Periyar E.V.R. High Road, Maduravoyal, Chennai-95. Tamilnadu, India.



# Garry Sobers

All-time All-Rounder

**Compiled by:**
Prof D Chandru
Head - DPES
Prof Dr S Ramalingam
Joint Registrar - Languages

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# FOREWORD

**Dr S Sivaramakrishnan**
**Former Principal**
**Dr Sivanthi Aditanar College of Physical Education**
**Tiruchendur – 628 215**
**Tamil Nadu**

Sobers is the "*Five-in-one cricketer*"

« Sir Donald Bradman

This quote speaks volumes.

Sobers enjoyed a 20-year international career for West Indies, between 1954 and 1974. In 1975 he was knighted for his services to cricket. In his debut against the English, being his first test and his third first class match, he was merely 17 years. He was selected to play in the 1975 World Cup, but picked an injury, and retired.

His versatility is nearly impossible and difficult to match – except for batting right-handed and wicket-keeping in international cricket. He literally did everything that can be done on the field.

Born with an extra finger on each hand (removed at birth), Sobers excelled at most athletic activities, playing golf, soccer and basketball for Barbados, and made his first-class debut at the age of 16, appearing in Tests a year later. He played initially mostly as a bowler, but four years later set the Test record for an individual batsman with a mammoth 365* against Pakistan.

After the departure of Sir Frank Worell, Sobers was enlisted with the task of leading the team. He had considerable success as a captain, leading West Indies in 39 Tests until Clive Llyod rose to

take his tally to 74.

This book – "**GARRY SOBERS: All-time All-rounder**" is a good and appreciable attempt by the department of Physical Education and Sports. The book makes a very sincere and serious attempt to bring the holistic picture of Garry Sobers. The chapters – "*365* not out*" and "*SIX 6s in an over*" – provide the detailed information and very appropriate pictures/photos.

The Chapter 'Overall Performance' provides his overall achievements in the macro-level and the corresponding micro-level could be known only by reading the web links provided therein. It is obvious that all the detailed data could not be provided in a single book. The authors' design and execution of the book have been worthy example for others to learn and make an attempt in their job. The chapter – 'PICTURES speak' – is a magnum opus of all other chapters and provides 365 pictures of Sobers covering from his early life, his achievements and his recent activities till 2022.

Also, 21 web links providing the several detailed information about his achievements, life, etc. are given. These would more or less cover the all the aspects of Sober's life. Also selected tributes of great contemporaries are presented, which would take the readers almost 60 years back and provide a comprehensive picture of his life.

The book is providing the relevant web links throughout wherever necessary. This special and unique feature is noteworthy and highly appreciable. The book would be very much useful to the present generation and an inspiration to the budding cricketers as well. Again, I appreciate the department concerned for their attempt and effort.

*******

# PREFACE

A preface facilitates the authors at the beginning of the book itself, to inform the readers about their journey. A preface is a short introductory narrative in which a book's authors explain their motives for telling a particular story.

Here in this book, the principal idea is to introduce Sir Garfield Sobers to the present generation of cricket fans and other stakeholders. It becomes near impossible to provide all his encyclopaedic profile in a single book. He is consistently acknowledged throughout the world as an 'all-time all-rounder' by the cricket fraternity.

The process of conception, design and execution is followed in the preparation of the book. After having decided and finalised the number of chapters as 11, the contents of each chapter are thought over and the details thereof are planned. Then the order of chapters is decided. The relevant and complete information for the first chapter [365* not out] is gathered and presented in an interesting manner. The narration for the other chapter [SIX sixes in an Over] is meticulously planned and presented with pictures and the relevant web links. His overall performance is presented in an attractive manner in a chapter [Overall Performance] with country wise intricate details.

Tributes by leading cricketers and others paid to Sir Garfield Sobers during his 80th birthday are meticulously identified, selected and presented in another chapter [Tributes to Sobers]. Here, readers especially present younger generation, have a rare and wonderful opportunity to know and study Sobers'

unparalleled performance. In an attempt to honour, a chapter [Pictures speak] contains 365 pictures/photographs completely covering his childhood, early life, professional achievements, his meeting with world leaders including Queen Elizabeth, etc.; here readers could know more interesting information about him. A chapter [Sobers' quotes] offers a selected list of quotes about his ideas, opinions, views, thinking, comments, for the readers to help themselves to enjoy more!

A separate and special chapter lists a set of highly selected web links offering several rare, new and unknown interesting details leading the readers to new areas of information. Due care is applied in the process of identifying and selecting these web links. Another chapter gives details of establishment of 'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' by ICC and a list of awardees from 2004 to 2021.

In addition to a separate chapter offering a list web links, several web links in the appropriate places throughout the book are included to enable the readers to reach these web links and expand their knowledge. Several international organisations like ICC, WISDEN, etc honoured Sobers by giving famous awards. Some selected 7 awards are identified and listed in a separate chapter and here, the intricate details of awards are provided to enable the readers to understand the process of selection.

We are confident that the cricket fans of young generation would enjoy and appreciate by reading the book. Any useful suggestions are welcome. This book is uploaded in the internet: https://archive.org/

**Prof D Chandru**
**Head – Department of Physical Education & Sports**
**Dr S Ramalingam**
**Joint Registrar – Languages**
**AUTHORS**

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**Please visit:**

https://www.britannica.com/biography/Garfield-Sobers


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# 365 Not Out

## Garry Sobers goes big with his maiden Test century

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

**21-YEARS 216 DAYS**

**(youngest to score a triple century)**

*March 1, 1958: Garry Sobers hits 365 not out to set world Test batting record*

The world of cricket was stunned when a 21-year-old, slim left-handed all-rounder from West Indies converted his maiden Test century into a triple ton, scoring an unbeaten 365 runs against Pakistan at Kingston Oval in Jamaica.

A record-breaking day for 21-year-old Garry Sobers, who turned his maiden Test century into a stunning 365 not out at Sabina Park – beating by one run the previous highest score in Tests, Len Hutton's 364 against Australia in 1938. It remained a Test record until 1994, when Sobers was in Antigua to witness Brian Lara move the bar up 10 runs. Sobers batted for 10 hours and 14 minutes, and added 446 for the second wicket with Conrad Hunte, who himself made 260. West Indies ended day three on 504 for 1. With Pakistan bowlers dropping like flies – only two of them finished uninjured, and they bowled 85.2 and 54 overs apiece – West Indies went on to a mighty 790 for 3, their highest total and the fourth-highest in Test history.
Of course, they won the match by an innings + 174 runs

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Garry Sobers (not out) | 365 runs | 614 Minutes | 38 (Fours) | 0 (Sixes) |

365* = 5.1 + 38.4 + 6.3 + 30.2 + 130.1
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

## Pakistan tour of West Indies

### 3rd Test, Kingston Oval, February 26 - March 04, 1958

********************************************************

Pakistan >>> 328 (102 overs) & 288/8 (96.3 overs)
West Indies >>> 790/3w (208.1 overs)
West Indies won by an innings and 174 runs

### Match Details

| | |
|---|---|
| Place | Sabina Park, Kingston Oval, Jamaica, West Indies |
| Toss | Pakistan; elected to bat first |
| Series | Pakistan Tour of West Indies |
| Season | 1957 - 58 |
| Match No. | Test No. 450 |
| Match Days | 6-day Match |
| Series Result | West Indies won the 5-match series by 2-0 |
| Umpires | 1) Perry Burke [West Indies]<br>2) Tom Ewart [West Indies] |

**Close of Play:**

Wed, 26 Feb - day 1 - Pakistan 1st innings 274/4 (Wallis Mathias 70*, Abdul Kardar 5*)
Thu, 27 Feb - day 2 - West Indies 1st innings 147/1 (Conrad Hunte 100*, Garry Sobers 20*)
Fri, 28 Feb - day 3 - West Indies 1st innings 504/1 (Conrad Hunte 242*, Garry Sobers 228*)
Sat, 01 Mar - day 4 - West Indies 1st innings 790/3d
**Sun, 02 Mar - Rest Day**
Mon, 03 Mar - day 5 - Pakistan 2nd innings 273/5 (Wazir Mohammad 102*, Abdul Kardar 46*)
Tue, 04 Mar - day 6 - Pakistan 2nd innings 288 (96.3 ov) - end of match

### Batsmen who converted maiden Test hundred into a Triple Hundred

| Player | Country | Runs | Opposition | Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Garry Sobers | West Indies | 365* | Pakistan | 1958 |
| Bob Simpson | Australia | 311 | England | 1964 |
| Karun Nair | India | 303* | England | 2016 |

**News:**
March 1, 1958

Garry Sobers, a 21-year-old left-handed all-rounder, scored his first Test century and made it a huge one. Arunabha Sengupta looks back at the innings that stood as the highest ever score in Test cricket for 36 years.

It had been a frustrating four years for the fans of Garry Sobers.

The young man, who had made his debut as a talented 17-year-old left-handed all-rounder, continued to carry a heady concoction of potential in every movement. From time to time, brief flurry of stroke play spoke of a rare pedigree, a genius that was seldom witnessed in any sport. Yet, he hovered on the fringes of greatness, occasionally stepping into the exclusive realm of the very special, but never did his willow script the epics that the initial flourish promised.

In 14 Tests till the beginning of the 1957-58 winter, he had managed 672 runs at 32.54.

Only four of the 22 dismissals had seen him walk back for less than ten. There had been umpteen thrilling starts, but only three had been converted into half-centuries, with a highest of 66.

When Pakistan visited the islands, it was apparent that things were about to change. In the first Test at Bridgetown, Sobers scored a fluent 52, and then spent an eternity in the field, bowling 57 overs as Hanif Mohammad batted 970 minutes for 337.

In the second, he notched up 52 and 80 and took a few wickets as the West Indies went one up in the series.

**The first century**

Sobers went into the third Test at Sabina Park still looking for his maiden hundred. But he had to wait. Abdul Hafeez Kardar, playing with a broken finger against doctor's orders, won the toss. Wicketkeeper-batsman Imtiaz Ahmed provided a sound start with a patient century, while Saeed Ahmed and Wallis Mathias providing excellent support. On the first evening of the six-day Test, the visitors were in a strong position at 274 for 4.

However, an early morning splash of shower freshened the wicket and Eric Atkinson and Tom Dewdney removed the rest of the batting for just 54 runs on the second day.

Pakistan's misfortunes started early in the West Indian innings. After the fifth ball, opening bowler Mahmood Hussain limped off the ground with a torn hamstring. Conrad Hunte began with a spate of boundaries. Such was his brilliance, that even a batsman of the calibre of Rohan Kanhai at the other end looked sedate by comparison.

The first wicket fell at 87, when Kanhai edged Fazal Mahmood to Imtiaz for 25. That was to be the last success Pakistan would taste for a very, very long time. Sobers walked in at No. 3 and moved to 20 when stumps were drawn for the day. Hunte had already notched up his hundred. The score read 147 for 1.

By the morning of the third day, Sobers had seized the initiative, outscoring Hunte with his steady stream of sparkling strokes. Pakistan's problems continued, with Nasim-ul-Ghani going off with a fractured thumb. Kardar was already bowling with a broken finger and Hussain was off the field. Fazal Mahmood and Khan Mohammad were the only two fully fit bowlers, and started sharing enormous amount of the

bowling. And with Hunte rock-solid at the other end, Sobers drove, cut and pulled with panache, it looked likely that at he would get to three figures.

By lunch, he was 76, Hunte on 139 and West Indies 243 for 1. As the day wore on, the two Pakistani bowlers were drained of the last drop of energy. Numerous non-regular trundlers were asked to turn their arms over.

Sobers reached is hundred after 197 minutes at the crease and tore into the attack. Rollicking from hundred to 150 in just 58 minutes, he had raced to 170 at tea. Hunte had taken his score along to 196. The West Indian total stood at an ominous 400 for 1.

**The world record**

By the third session, the Pakistan bowlers were going through their motions. Unfortunately, none of the slower bowlers were available to keep bowling long spells. Of the two men who were fit, Fazal was a bowler of formidable pace and Khan Mohammad a medium-pacer. The two batsmen continued to make merry as the quick men bowled their hearts out with only sweat and racing pulses to show for their return. On the other hand, neither batsmen showed any decipherable signs of fatigue as runs continued to come easily.

Hunte crossed his double-hundred, followed soon after by Sobers. By the end of the day, West Indies were 504 for 1, the stand worth 417. In 1934, at The Oval, Don Bradman and Bill Ponsford had added 451 for the second wicket, and it stood as the partnership record for any wicket. The two young batsmen were just 34 runs away. Hunte was on 242, Sobers 228.

The following morning, the rest day being scheduled after the fourth, Hunte started stroking the ball with élan and it seemed another long day ahead of the Pakistan bowlers. And then he fell, in the only way that had looked possible for two days, unable to beat a throw from the infield. His 260-run effort had come in 503 minutes, with 28 fours and a six. The partnerships stopped at 446. It was 533 for 2. The Oval feat of Bradman and Ponsford had survived, but another milestone set at the same ground was slowly coming under threat.

There was no respite for the Pakistanis. The man who walked out next was Everton Weekes, possessing the highest batting average in the world at that moment. Sobers, on his part, was busy ensuring that his first hundred would turn out to be a gigantic one.There was no extravagant stroke. In fact, after reaching his double hundred, he proceeded cautiously, playing the ball according to merit, manoeuvring the good ones and punishing the bad.

Fazal Mahmood, untiring and relentless, ran in again and again, and just after lunch, at 602, got rid of Weekes. There is a legend that the fast bowler vomited blood during the innings — and there is hardly any reason to doubt it.The man bowled 85.2 overs during the two and a half days on the field and very few of the 512 deliveries lacked in intent.

As Weekes left the ground, his place was taken by the great Clyde Walcott, the hardest hitter in the world. Playing one of his last memorable knocks, this third of the W triumvirate guided the young man at the other end to his milestones. And when he came at the striking end, he pulverised the Pakistan bowlers further by walloping the ball to all parts of the ground with his trademark powerful hits.

In the second hour after lunch, Sobers reached his triple-hundred — the youngest to the landmark at 21 years 216 days, a record that still stands. He was also the first West Indian batsman to ever achieve the feat. It had taken him four minutes short of ten hours.

This was the first and only time two batsmen had scored triple centuries in the same series.

And now he relaxed, flinging his bat at the offerings of the exhausted bowlers. Sobers and Walcott walked in to have tea with the total a tottering 730 for 3, the former on 336. Wazir Mohammad and Imtiaz Ahmed were the only two Pakistani players not to have had a bowl.

Sobers started the final session 28 runs short of Len Hutton's world-record score of 364, scored at The Oval against Don Bradman's Australians in 1938. England had piled up 903 for 7, the declaration coming only after captain Wally Hammond had looked at the medical report to make sure that Bradman had hurt his shin enough to not feature in the batting card.

West Indies, however, was not gunning for the highest ever Test total, although it was well within their reach. Walcott struck three majestic sixes as Sobers progressed towards the 20-year old mark. And after 614 minutes of batting, he pushed yet another Fazal Mahmood delivery to go past Hutton. The master from Yorkshire had taken three more hours over his runs. **The monumental knock of the West Indian hero contained one five, 38 fours, 6 threes, 30 twos and 130 singles.**

As he raised his bat, the 20,000-strong Jamaican crowd rushed into the ground. There was more reason for elation than the striking moment of history. Four years earlier, Hutton had led England to the island on a tour that had ended in a 2-2 stalemate and not much love lost between the tourists and the West Indians. The captain had laid down strict rules of not fraternising with opponents, and as a result had not been the most popular man in the Caribbean. Now that Sobers had dislodged him from the throne of individual batting scores, the occasion was doubly sweet.

**What followed?**

Gerry Alexander declared immediately, with the score on 790 for 3. However, with half of Jamaica running on the wicket, the pitch was damaged, and play was called off for the day.

After the day of rest, the Pakistani batsmen started on the uphill task of batting out two days. Hanif Mohammad could not repeat his first Test heroics and was bowled by Roy Gilchrist early in the innings. Elder brother Wazir scored a battling hundred and

took the match into the fifth day with only 5 wickets down. But, with Nasim-ul-Ghani and Mohammad Hussain unable to bat, the West Indian bowlers quickly knocked over the remaining wickets to win by a huge margin of innings and 174 runs.

The record set by Sobers stood for 36 long years before Brian Lara, another phenomenally talented West Indian, went past it in 1994.

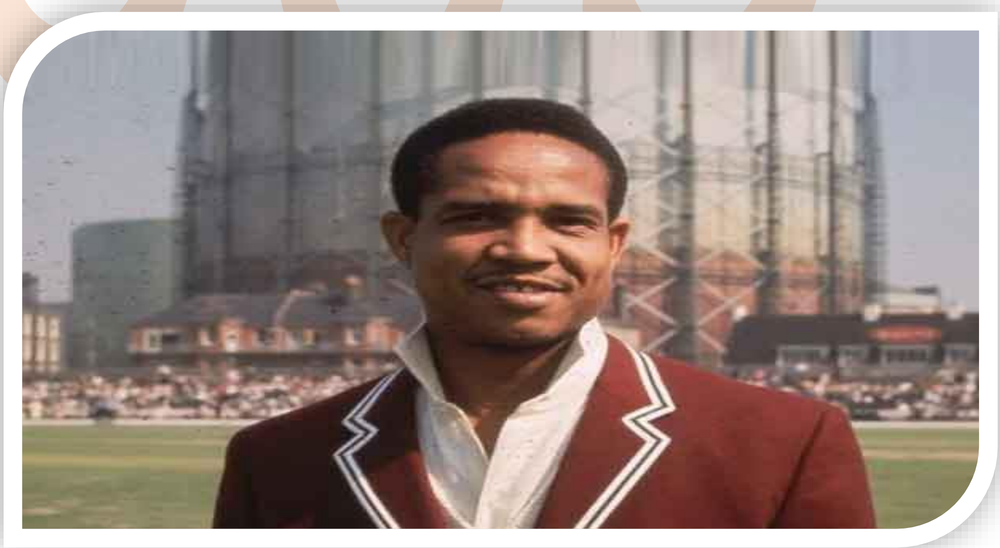
Brief Scores:

Pakistan 328 (Imtiaz Ahmed 122, Saeed Ahmed 52, Wallis Mathias 77; Eric Atkinson 5 for 42) and 288 (Wazir Mohammad 106, Saeed Ahmed 44, Abdul Kardar 57) lost to West Indies 790 for 3 decl. (Conrad Hunte 260, Garry Sobers 365*, Clyde Walcott 88*) by an innings and 174 runs.

*(Arunabha Sengupta is a cricket historian and Chief Cricket Writer at CricketCountry. He writes about the history and the romance of the game, punctuated often by opinions about modern day cricket, while his post-graduate degree in statistics peeps through in occasional analytical pieces. The author of three novels, he can be followed on Twitter at http://twitter.com/senantix)*

**Source:**

https://www.cricketcountry.com/articles/garry-sobers-rsquo-s-365-not-out-a-test-best-that-stood-for-36-long-years-23572



# SIX sixes in an Over

## 1. Sir Garfield Sobers [1968]

*The flamboyant West Indian all-rounder was the first player to achieve the feat on 31st August 1968. Sobers was playing as captain for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan when Malcolm Nash came on to bowl.*

*Nash had little idea when running up to the crease that, unfortunately, the over would represent the bulk of his cricket legacy. Sobers smashed five clean hits in a row for six, but on the sixth, was caught on the boundary.*

*Glamorgan relief was short-lived, however, as fielder Roger Davis carried the ball over the rope, resulting in the first over to have ever been hit for six sixes and adding to the mythical nature of the achievement.*

## 2. Ravi Shastri [1985]

*On 19th January 1985, Shastri, more commonly known as a defensive player, became the second ever cricketer to hit six sixes in an over.*

*The current India coach is also known for calling the action from the commentary box and has developed a reputation as one of the finest in the business, but it was with willow in hand which he first wrote his name into the history books.*

*Playing for Bombay against Baroda, he hit left-arm spinner Tilak Raj for 36 in six balls.*

*Shastri's personal connection with the feat of six sixes in an over would not stop there and, 22 years later, on a warm spring evening in Durban, he would be the man to call the action during another completion of this remarkable feat.*

## 3. Herschelle Gibbs [2007]

*For Gibbs, hitting six sixes in an over seemed to be written in the stars. He was South Africa's most exciting and explosive batsman during the mid-1990s through to 2010.*

*It was during the World Cup in 2007, when he hit Daan van Bunge of the Netherlands for the full complement of six sixes in the over.*

*The ostentatious right-hander bludgeoned van Bunge's deliveries with breath-taking skill, hitting them flat and high. Gibbs is still the only man to have completed the feat in a 50-over World Cup game and the first to do it internationally.*

## 4. Yuvaraj Singh [2007]

*Few will forget Singh's assault on the England cricket team and a hapless Stuart Broad during a World Cup T20 game in South Africa in spring 2007. Before Broad bowled the 19th over, Yuvraj had entered into a heated altercation with Andrew Flintoff.*

*However, it was Broad who would pay the ultimate price over the next six balls as an annoyed Singh carried out his brilliant retribution.*

*'Yuvi' didn't break sweat once and, with the most exquisite timing and shot selection, dispatched a shell-shocked England seamer over the Kingsmead boundary six times in a row.*

*Once again, Shastri was the man behind the mic at the time of Singh's brilliance, and who better to be calling the action.*

*Singh has since retired, but his brilliance that night will be remembered for as long as the game is played.*

## 5. Ross Whitely [2017]

*In July 2017, Worcestershire Rapids' Whitely joined the select club with six successive maximums off the bowling of Yorkshire Vikings spinner Karl Carver in a T20 Blast match at Headingley.*

*Agonisingly for the Sheffield-born batsman his efforts were in vain as the Rapids lost, with David Willey, the man who eventually sent him back to the dressing room, also smashing a match-winning 118 off 55 balls in a remarkable contest.*

## 6. Hazratullah Zazai [2018]

*The next addition to this list comes from the less-heralded cricketing climes of the Afghanistan Premier League (T20), where Zazai bludgeoned his way into the history books off the deliveries of the hapless Abdullah Mazari.*

*On multiple occasions the Kabul Zwanan batsman's mighty strokes came perilously close to departing the stadium altogether in a display of brutal hitting.*

## 7. Leo Carter [2020]

*Canterbury Kings batsman Leo Carter made history in January 2020 following his stunning six sixes in an over during his side's T20 match against the Northern Knights to join this elite club.*

*Carter, taking part in New Zealand's Super Smash competition, hit six successive sixes on his way to racking up an impressive tally of 70 not out off just 29 balls, which inspired Canterbury Kings to a seven-wicket victory with seven balls to spare.*

## 8. Kieron Pollard [2021]

*We had to wait over a year for the next player to ink their name into the history books, with Kieron Pollard achieving the feat in March 2021 for West Indies against Sri Lanka. Pollard became the first player to hit six sixes in an international over since Singh in 2007, while he was also just the third player to do it in international cricket following Yuvraj and Herschelle Gibbs. Pollard's feat was even more impressive given bowler Akila Dananjaya had just taken a hat-trick in his previous over.*

## 9. Thisara Perera [2021]

*Like waiting for a bus, two then came at once in March 2021, with Thisara Perera following Pollard just a few weeks later. All-rounder Perera was batting for Army Sports CC against Bloomfield Cricket and Athletic Club in a List-A fixture. Perera's stunning effort took him to a final score of 52 from just 13 balls as he scored the second-fastest half-century in List A cricket. He also became the first Sri Lankan to hit six sixes in an over in any form of professional cricket.*

## 10. Jaskaran Malhotra [2021]

*Malhotra slammed PNG's Gaudi Toka for six sixes in the 50th over of their innings as the pacer conceded 66 runs in seven overs without taking any wicket.*

*The right-handed batsman remained unbeaten on 173 runs off just 124 balls as he became the first USA cricketer to make a hundred since being granted ODI status.*

*Interestingly, Malhotra also became just the second cricketer to achieve this incredible feat in ODI cricket after former South Africa batsman Herschelle Gibbs. He is overall the tenth cricketer to smash six sixes in an over in professional cricket.*

## Players who have hit 6 sixes in an over

| Player | Team | vs Opponent | Tournament |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sir Gary Sobers | Nottinghamshire | Glamorgan | County Championship (1968) |
| Ravi Shastri | Bombay | Baroda | Ranji Trophy (1985) |
| Herschelle Gibbs | South Africa | Netherlands | World Cup (2007) |
| Yuvraj Singh | India | England | T20 World Cup (2007) |
| Ross Whitely | Worcestershire Rapid | Yorkshire Vikings | T20 Blast (2017) |
| Hazratullah Zazai | Kabul Zwanan | Balkh Legends | Afghanistan Premier League (2018) |
| Leo Carter | Canterbury Kings | Northern Knights | Super Smash (2020) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kieron Pollard | West Indies | Sri Lanka | T20I series (2021) |
| Thisara Perera | Sri Lanka Army Sports CC | Bloomfield Cricket and Athletic Club | Major Clubs Limited Over List A Tournament (2021) |
| Jaskaran Malhotra | USA | Papua New Guinea | ODI Series (2021) |

**Please visit these web links to watch and enjoy these sixes !**

*[A] All Ten*

*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OWRuyPK-sQ&ab_channel=ByTheWayShorts*

*[B] Kieron Pollard*

*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51QEXrgX3-I&ab_channel=GuardianSport*

*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOjFPJ19Gq4&ab_channel=WindiesCricket*

*[C] Herschelle Gibbs*

*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ypYOiGgLV4&ab_channel=CricketCloud*

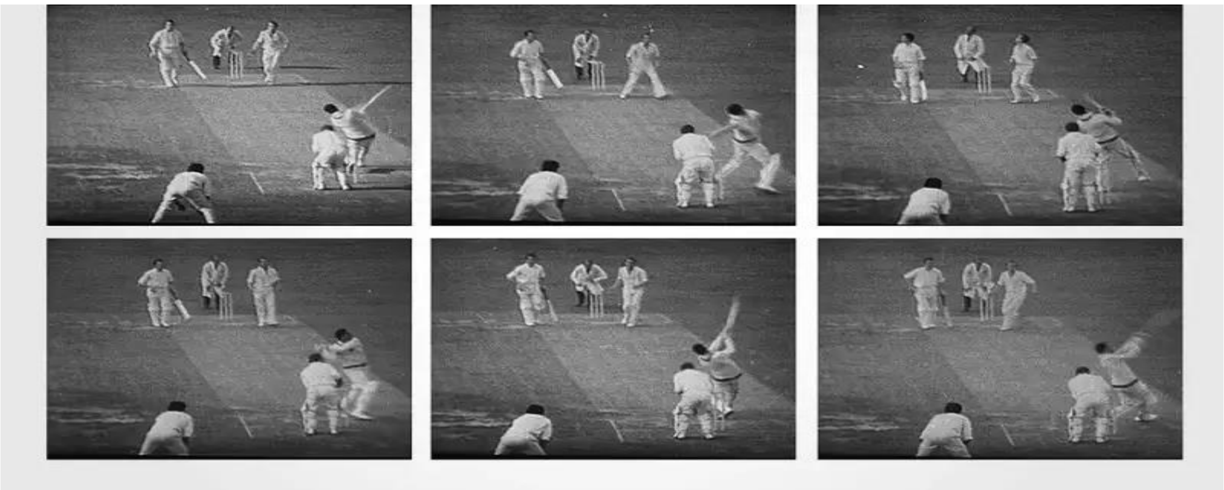
*[D] Yuvraj Singh*

*https://www.icc-cricket.com/video/1834014*

*[E] Hazratullah Zazai*

*https://www.icc-cricket.com/news/878428*

## Sobers hitting SIX sixes



August 31, 1968 - Remember the date? Probably not. Or maybe, you were not even born yet. It has been 50 years since the West Indian cricketing legend Sir Garfield St Aubrun Sobers struck six sixes in an over for the first time in the history of the Gentleman's Game. Hailed as the greatest all-rounder of the game, Sir Gary Sobers played his last game 44 years ago. Rolling back the pages of the golden era, we remember one of the most classic moments in cricketing history.

Featuring for the English county side Nottinghamshire in 1968, Sobers won the toss against Glamorgan and decided to bat first. Riding on a ton from opener JB Bolus', the Notts were cruising in the field with 308 runs on the board at the loss of five wickets. With 300 runs already on board, Sobers knew he had to declare anytime soon.

Switching his gears, the left-handed batsman went all guns blazing as he pummeled six sixes from the over of Glamorgan left-arm pacer Malcolm Nash. However, the pacer was instructed to bowl spin by their skipper AR Lewis and what followed is history.

The first ball was heaved at the cow corner over mid-wicket boundary into the stands. The second ball was placed with precision towards the same direction as well for another maximum. The third ball, on the off, was clubbed for the third six over the long off boundary. Fielders watched helplessly as the fourth one went over the square leg boundary. The fifth delivery was pitched up and Gary mishit it over the bowler's head. Unfortunately, Roger Davis crossed the ropes as he took the catch thus resulting in another six. The last delivery met the same fate over the square leg boundary.

The Notts went on to win the game by 166 runs and Sir Gary Sobers' six-sixes feat is something which is still remembered.

6 x 6 = 36

# Overall Performance

| | |
|---|---|
| **Full Name:** | Sir Garfield St Aubrun Sobers |
| **Born:** | 28th July, 1936 |
| **Current Age:** | 86 years 69 days |
| **Bats:** | Left Handed |
| **Bowls:** | Left Arm Medium Fast/Left Arm Orthodox/Left Arm Wrist Spin (Chinaman) |
| **Matches:** | 93 (1954-1974) |

## Batting:

| Versus | Mat | Inns | NO | 100s | 50s | 0s | HS | Runs | Avg | S/R | Ca Fld | Ca Kpr | St |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australia | 19 | 38 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 168 | 1510 | 43.14 | | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| England | 36 | 61 | 8 | 10 | 13 | 6 | 226 | 3214 | 60.64 | | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| India | 18 | 30 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 198 | 1920 | 83.48 | | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| New Zealand | 12 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 142 | 404 | 23.76 | | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Pakistan | 8 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 365* | 984 | 89.45 | | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| **Overall (5)** | **93** | **160** | **21** | **26** | **30** | **12** | **365*** | **8032** | **57.78** | | **109** | **0** | **0** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Innings:** | **160** |
| **Not Outs:** | **21** |
| | |
| **Aggregate:** | **8032** |
| **Highest Score:** | **365*** |
| **Average:** | **57.78** |
| **50s:** | **30** |
| **100s:** | **26** |
| **200s:** | **2** |
| **300s:** | **1** |
| **Ducks:** | **12** |
| **Pairs:** | **0** |
| **4s:** | **664** |
| **6s:** | **17** |
| **Balls Faced:** | **0** |
| **Scoring Rate** | **N/A** |
| **Opened Batting:** | **8** |
| **Top Scored in Innings:** | **30** |
| **% of Team Runs Scored:** | **15.52** |

# Bowling:

| Versus | Mat | O | M | R | W | 5w | 10w | Best | Avg | S/R | E/R |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australia | 19 | 683.5 | 154 | 2024 | 51 | 2 | 0 | 6/73 | 39.69 | 95.98 | 2.48 |
| England | 36 | 1461.5 | 411 | 3323 | 102 | 3 | 0 | 5/41 | 32.58 | 85.99 | 2.27 |
| India | 18 | 716.5 | 215 | 1516 | 59 | 1 | 0 | 5/63 | 25.69 | 72.90 | 2.11 |
| New Zealand | 12 | 332.5 | 105 | 682 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 4/64 | 35.89 | 116.16 | 1.85 |
| Pakistan | 8 | 237.3 | 89 | 454 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2/41 | 113.50 | 356.25 | 1.91 |
| **Overall (5)** | **93** | **3432.5** | **974** | **7999** | **235** | **6** | **0** | **6/73** | **34.04** | **91.91** | **2.22** |

| | |
|---|---|
| Balls: | 21599 |
| Maidens: | 974 |
| Runs Conceded: | 7999 |
| Wickets: | 235 |
| Average: | 34.04 |
| 5 Wickets in Innings: | 6 |
| 10 Wickets in Match: | 0 |
| Best - Innings: | 6/73 |
| Best - Match: | 8/80 |
| None for 100 | 1 |
| Economy Rate: | 2.22 |
| Strike Rate: | 91.91 |
| % of Team Wickets Taken: | 15.60 |

| **Fielding** | | **Captaincy** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Catches: | 109 | Matches/Won/Lost: | 39/9/10 |
| Most Catches in Innings: | 4 | Tosses Won: | 27 (69.23%) |
| Most Catches in Match: | 6 | Chose to Field/Won/Lost: | 4/1/1 |
| | | Runs Scored: | 3528 |
| | | Batting Average: | 58.80 |

Please visit to know other details/breakups/information:

(1) http://howstat.com/cricket/Statistics/Players/PlayerOpponents.asp?PlayerID=1652#bat
(2) http://www.howstat.com/cricket/statistics/Players/PlayerOverview.asp?PlayerID=1652

Winston Anthony Lloyd Cozier (10 July 1940 – 11 May 2016) was the son of Jimmy Cozier, a well-known cricket journalist in the Caribbean, who began writing on cricket as a teenager in 1958. He studied journalism at Carleton University, Ottawa, and played hockey for Barbados and club cricket for Wanderers and then Carlton. His first commentary was made during the West Indies-Australia series in 1965, and he was an ever-present voice for five decades thereafter. He also worked extensively for overseas television and radio stations. As a writer, he was prolific in newspapers, magazines and books. He was both the voice and the conscience of West Indian cricket.

Here we provide his write up (espncricinfo.com on 30 Mar 2004) about Gary Sobers which gives a brief and wonderful profile: "**Sobers Supreme**".

[https://www.espncricinfo.com/story/tony-cozier-marks-the-60th-anniversary-of-garry-sobers-debut-732353]

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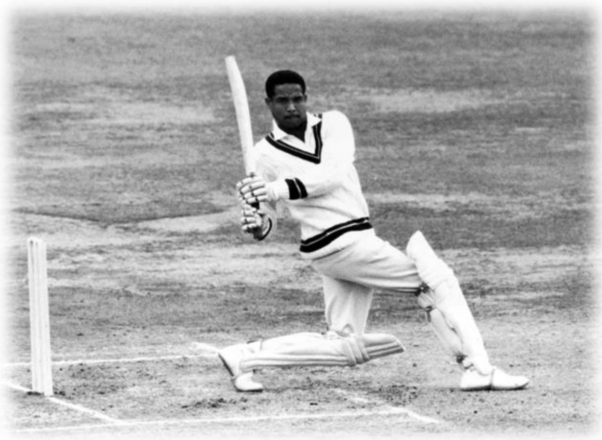
# Sobers Supreme

Sixty years ago today, a 17-year-old Bajan cricketer made his debut for West Indies, and went on to touch with his genius all those who saw him play for the next two decades.



Sir Garry Sobers - the Right Excellent Sir Garfield St Aubrun Sobers, to accord him his full title as a knight of the realm and the only living national hero of his native Barbados - is not the type who makes a fuss over his achievements as, in the words of the 1965 calypso, "the greatest cricketer on Earth or Mars".

If he is inclined to play down his two coincidentally simultaneous anniversaries on Sunday, he is sure to have been reminded of their significance several times in the past few days. They mark the start and the end of his celebrated Test career.
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March 30 is 60 years to the day since Sobers first appeared in a Test match for West Indies, against England in 1954 in Kingston's Sabina Park. It is precisely 40 since his last, also against England, in Port-of-Spain's Queen's Park Oval in 1974.

He took the field at Sabina as a boy of 17 from the working-class district of Bayland on the outskirts of Bridgetown, raised, along with five siblings, by a mother widowed by the loss of her seaman husband to a German torpedo during World War II; her second son had no formal coaching, just a love and an aptitude for any ball game.

He was a late, like-for-like replacement for left-arm spinner Alf Valentine, who was injured; he batted at No. 9. His selection was based primarily on his unquestionable talent, obvious in only two preceding first-class matches for Barbados, against the touring Indians the year before and the Englishmen earlier on their tour. He was so anonymous that *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack* listed him as H Sobers in the India scorecard.

"Not a soul was there when I walked into the dressing room, they were in the nets practising," Sobers recalls of the day he turned up in the Kingston Cricket Club pavilion for his debut Test. "You then looked around and saw the names on the team sheet - Weekes... Worrell... Walcott... Rae... Stollmeyer... Ramadhin... I said to myself: 'You've arrived, you've made it'."

A return of 28.5-9-75-4 and scores of 14 not out and 26 as England won by nine wickets verified his temperament as much as his skill. By the time he strode on the Queen's Park Oval 20 years later, also against England, for his farewell match. after 92 Tests against all five of West Indies' opponents of the day, he had certainly "made it". It was a shame, but immaterial, that there was no grand finale; he was out for 0 and 20 and collected just three wickets in the match.

He had long since become a batsman supreme, departing as Test cricket's leading scorer, with 8032 runs, at an average of 57.78. His 26 centuries had been bettered only the insatiable Don Bradman's 29. His 235 wickets in three contrasting left-arm styles were second to Lance Gibbs among West Indians. His 109 catches, snared mostly with Venus-flytrap reflexes in the slips or round the corner off Gibbs, were eight short of Colin Cowdrey's tally.

He captained West Indies in 39 matches, the most until Clive Lloyd came along to carry his formidable teams for 74.

His name remained affixed to 365 not out against Pakistan in Kingston in 1958 as the highest Test innings for 36 years until Brian Lara, a similarly gifted West Indian left-hander Sobers had mentored since he appeared in the annual, long-running International Schools tournament in Barbados that carries Sobers' name, passed it in 1994.

They are statistics that explain Sobers' widely acknowledged status as the most complete all-round cricketer of his time, indeed all time. They do not tell the whole story of his remarkable endurance.

His first 85 Tests were in succession; no one had ever had such an unbroken sequence. He is adamant that he never left the field, not once, in any of them. In addition to West Indies and Barbados, he had three stints with South Australia (where he became the first player to complete the double of 1000 runs and 50 wickets in an Australian season), with English county Nottinghamshire for seven years, and with clubs in the Lancashire League. He captained Rest of the World teams against England and Australia.

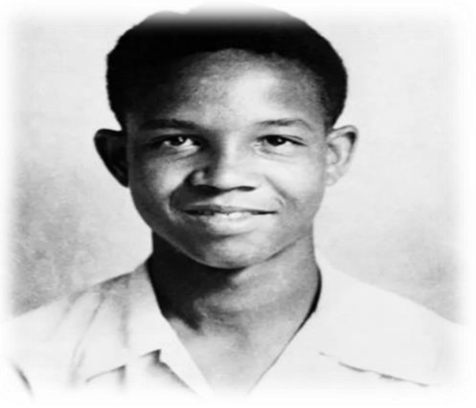
At the height of Sobers' pre-eminence in the 1966 series in England, the renowned English writer Sir Neville Cardus contended that he was "even more famous than Bradman ever was, for he is accomplished in every form of the game and has exhibited his genius in all climes and conditions".

On the Saturday of the final Test of the memorable 1960-61 "tied Test" series, the temperature at the Melbourne Cricket Ground was as roasting as it was at the recent Australian Open tennis, where some players were felled by heat stroke. It didn't stop Sobers sending down 22 consecutive eight-ball overs on the day, mostly in his quicker style - and returning for another 19 on the Monday.

Such exhausting facts are even more astonishing given his legendary enjoyment of life, a capacity I marvelled at during several nights on tour in his company. He was never concerned that it would affect his game. It was his way of relaxation. Cooped up in his room, he said, would unnecessarily get him worried about the cricket. To each his own; his justification is in the record books.

And what about keeping as fit as he did? Certainly, gym work and personal trainers were hardly known during his time.

"I used to swim a lot. I used to live at the beach. I used to play a lot of beach cricket. I played cricket every day," he said. "There was tennis and other sports [he represented Barbados at soccer and basketball even before he did at cricket]. I got myself fit because I knew how fit you had to be to be at your best for five days of a Test match and not leave the field."



Sobers as an 18-year-old

As we marvel at the action, athleticism and all-round ability of the players in the current World T20 in Bangladesh, it is not difficult to imagine how Sobers' talent would have flourished in the abbreviated formats that came along after he had swapped the cricket field for the golf course, a place where he habitually indulges what has long been a passion. It is another sport that he has inevitably mastered.

Now 77, the passing years have generally treated him kindly. He has been technical consultant to the West Indies team and advisor to the team's sponsor. For the past

three decades, his global fame has made him the ideal ambassador for Barbados tourism, the island's economic mainstay.

The hilarity heard from the boxes at Kensington Oval, where he and several of his old mates gathered for West Indies' three T20 matches against England last month suggested a kindling of happy memories.

The memories will also feature on Sunday for those of us lucky enough to have experienced the Sobers magic during our lifetime.

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Bradman himself called Sobers the **"FIVE-IN-ONE CRICKETER"**, and with good reason: apart from being an outstanding batsman and fielder, Sobers the bowler was so versatile that he could bowl three different styles - left-arm seam and swing, slow left-arm orthodox, and left-arm wrist spin.

Sobers' skills with the ball allowed West Indies to often play an extra batsman - in fact, it was almost as if they were playing with 12 members in the team.
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# Tributes to Garry Sobers

**https://www.news9live.com/sports/march-1-1958-gary-sobers-hits-365-not-out-to-set-world-test-batting-record-11459.html**

The world of cricket was stunned when a 21-year-old, slim left-handed all-rounder from West Indies converted his maiden Test century into a triple ton, scoring an unbeaten 365 runs against Pakistan at Kingston Oval in Jamaica. With his triple century, Sobers broke the 20-year-old record of 364 of Sir Len Hutton set against Australia at The Oval in 1938.

One of the greatest cricketers to ever play the Gentleman's Game, Sir Garfield Sobers' legacy is well documented. A genius of the sport, who excelled in all facets of the game, Sobers was part of the West Indies team which dominated cricket in during 1950's and 1960's. Arguably the greatest all-rounder the game has produced, Sobers was elegant with the bat yet had the power game to torment any bowling attack.

He could have made into any world Test team solely as a bowler. Sobers bowled left-arm orthodox wrist spin and fast-medium. He could open the bowling, and later bowl spin, his incandescent skills fetching him 236 wickets in 93 tests. And of course, he scored 8,032 runs in those 93 "Tests at an average of 57.78! As a fielder, Sobers was one of the best of his time or any other.

Just to give an idea of his all-round abilities, in August 1973, at The Lord's against England ,Sobers scored the 26th century of his career and the last, and held six catches in the Test. In his career spanning 20 years, Sobers took West Indies to a status were most of the other sides started fearing the Caribbean Kings.

The greatest all-round cricketer that ever was
and may ever be. As a tribute on his 80th birthday
**ESPNcricinfo** invited his team-mates, opponents
and observers to share their memories of Garry Sobers.

**Source:**
[https://www.thecricketmonthly.com/story/1027587/the-man-who-could-do-everything]

Some of them are provided for the readers to know more about Sobers!

**Everton Weekes, former West Indies batsman**

I have seen Garry Sobers since he was a 12-year-old boy growing up in Barbados. I had only started playing for West Indies then. Soon after that he joined us in the West Indies dressing room as a 17-year-old youngster. I remember him saying he was more nervous sitting in the dressing room than running around the field because of seeing himself sit next to the name players.

We never had to teach him anything. He taught himself. He started making runs, taking wickets and holding catches to overcome that nervousness. The only thing I once told him is when we were batting together in England. Frank Tyson, who was supposed to be the fastest bowler in the world

at the time, was bowling to Garry, who had a very high backlift. I told him to be careful otherwise Tyson could get him with a yorker. Oh yes, he survived.

**Ian Chappell, former Australia captain**

A lot of people thought of Sobers as a natural who just played the game and did not think a hell of a lot about what he did. But he was very thoughtful. In fact, once, Mosman, the club in Sydney, was looking for a coach and the president had dinner with him and said, "Garry, we would love to have you as a coach, but you haven't got the qualifications." Garry said to him: "What did you think I got my knighthood for?"

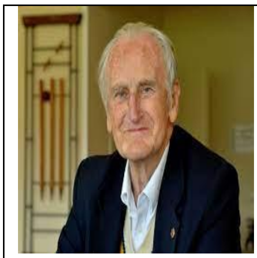
He helped me a lot with my batting when I was an 18-year-old kid. I said to him, "I've obviously got a bit of a problem here, Garry. Have you got any suggestions?" He said, "Go get a bottle of beer, son. And I will talk to you." He told me three things in those very early days and I did them for the rest of my career and they were a big help. He told me to take a leg-stump guard instead of middle, because I got back and across, same as him. He said also because I went back and across, I'd be better off batting just a little bit out of the crease instead of batting one foot either side of the crease. I don't remember the third thing now, but it was helpful.

There is another great story. They were playing in England and Geoff Boycott came to him one day and said, "Garry, you seem to get me out lbw a lot. I don't understand it." Garry was quite good psychologically as well. He said to Boycott, "Unlike a lot of people, Geoffrey, I don't think your technique is that good." That would have cut Boycott to the quick because he prided himself on his technique. "Your front foot is too far across. You can't get your bat around your pad and my inswinger gets you lbw. That's what is happening."They go out on the field next day. Boycott is batting. Sobers runs up, bowls the first ball, angles it across, Boycott edges, gets caught at slip. As he is walking off, Sobey says to him, "Geoffrey, you didn't ask me about the other one."

**Ian McDonald, West Indian poet, columnist and novelist**

Of course I remember Sobers in the field of play as the greatest cricketer who ever lived - batting touched by imagination beyond textbook; bowling full of creativity, fast or swing or slow or China man; fielding the quick-silverest of all men close to the wicket. An unmatchable life force, all eyes turning to him in action, the unforgettable privilege of seeing him. But I remember him also as an overflowing fountain of life in the marrow of his being. Seizing the moment, burnishing it in the fire of his youth.

At a party with Sobers one night in the middle of a Test match at Bourda - the party seemed to have come to an end at about 3am at a friend's home. Back to the hotel now. But Sobers was restless. Someone mentioned a recently opened nightspot. "Man, nobody going to tell me a place call The Crimson Cabbage and I never pay a visit! It have a little time, le' we go take a little look!" Well, I suppose there was indeed a little time left before start of play. Life's net practice also is important. Someone can look it up, Sobers scored a big century later that day, flashing boundaries off side, on side, overhead, elsewhere not of this mortal world.



**Ted Dexter, former England captain**

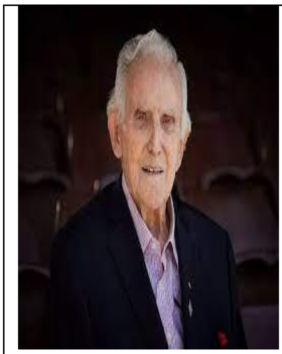
When playing for South Australia, who had never won the Sheffield Shield, there was a player meeting before their final match. How to bowl at so-and-so? "Leave him to me," came a West Indian voice from the corner. How to play certain bowlers? "No worries, man, I get plenty of runs." Like any good pro, he obliged with a huge score, the wickets of key upper-order batsmen, oh, and a handful of catches too. "No worries, man. Leave it to me!"

**Glenn Turner, former New Zealand captain**

I played against Sobers quite a bit in county cricket. One occasion, where Worcestershire were playing Nottinghamshire, he picked one ball and hit it down the fielder's throat at deep-backward square leg. When we came together as a group at the fall of his wicket, Basil D'Oliveira said to us, "I'll bet you when Sobers goes past the guy that caught him on the way to the pavilion he will say, 'I didn't see you down there, maan.'" We asked the fielder and he confirmed that was exactly what Sobers said to him. He had such confidence in himself always that he was struggling with the fact that he could get out.

When he first came to England, he did not feel the need to use the thigh pad. He used to say, "What do you have your bat for?" But after being hit in the thigh a fair number of times with the ball nipping nicely into his legs in English conditions, he put it on.

We know that Garry Sobers could do anything on the field and even off it. But these little quirky stories point out the man was just like one of us, except he could do great deeds.



**Alan Davidson, former Australia allrounder**

The 1960-61 series had two wonderful captains: Frank Worrell and Richie Benaud, both of whom were prepared to play cricket for cricket's sake. In that West Indies side were Rohan Kanhai, Conrad Hunte, the great Wes Hall and an emerging bloke called Lance Gibbs. But the bloke who stood out above all of them was a fellow called Sobers. Garfield Sobers. The bloke could do just about anything on a cricket field except umpire. He was a complete cricketer, magnificent fielder, bowled all types of bowling, and when in form, he absolutely decimated great bowling attacks. You could not set a field to him because he just had that innate ability to be able to score runs whenever he wanted to.

In the tied Test in Brisbane he scored a century where he just bisected the field and it was absolutely one of the greatest innings I have ever seen in my life. He didn't just beat the field. He split the field. His placement was just incredible.

In the second dig I just thought I would try something a little bit different. I eventually got him with a yorker. In the previous overs I'd bowled slow at him, varying my pace before I delivered the fast yorker, and it got through him. My emotions got the better of me; I was over-elated, because he was such a dominant batsman. When he was in form, a lot of bowlers used to give up on him. If he is hitting your best ball for a four then you know he is going to massacre you.

## John Benaud, former Australia batsman

It is a fresh memory still. Sobers was lurking at backward short-leg when I was facing Intikhab Alam at the MCG against the World XI. Inti was a pretty clever leg spinner. He bowled a wrong'un to me. I thought it was a topspinner and it went sharply off the inside edge. In those days you were more likely to find someone at backward short-leg off a spinner than these days. Sobers was right in my hip pocket. It was a sharp chance. He just plucked it with his left hand, a one-handed catch low to the ground.

In the same match, he massacred the Australians with his 254. There are two lasting memories. One was Sobers square-driving a yorker from Dennis Lillee. It was a ball that should have challenged Sobers really, but he ended up driving it and the ball bounced back about 15 metres off the fence at point. Then Bob Massie with the second new ball. He bowled a late in-dipper. Sobers was preparing to let it go, but at the last minute with a flick of the wrist hit it between myself and Terry Jenner at mid-on and midwicket for a four. It was an incredible reflex response to what was a pretty good ball. He just had those incredible wrists.

We were once playing a game of golf at the Victoria Club in Melbourne. The first hole was a downhill par four. Sobers hit a 1-iron onto the green, which was just unheard of. He had that tremendous natural talent.

## Farokh Engineer, former India wicketkeeper

It was at the MCG in the Australians v World XI game. Dennis Lillee had walked in to bat at No. 11. Garry told me, "Rookie, just go back a couple of steps further. I'm going to show him what fast bowling is all about." He bowled him a few bouncers in a row and next ball got a wicket. Lillee was running for cover every delivery. When we went back to the dressing room, he told Garry, "I look forward to seeing you out in the middle." Sobers said he was waiting too. He ended up scoring 254.

Garry always loved a fight. I remember, once I was batting with Clive Lloyd for Lancashire against Nottinghamshire, where Garry was playing. If I recollect correctly we used to get a bonus point when the team total got to 200. Clive and myself were hitting the old ball easily. The new ball was taken and Garry came on to bowl. We just needed one further run to get the bonus point. Garry bowled six of the most beautiful left-arm outswingers. Clive was batting, I think, in the 70s. He tried to drive, did not get a touch on a single ball.

## Barry Jarman, former Australia wicketkeeper

South Australia was playing Victoria in February 1964 at the Adelaide Oval. I was talking to Victoria's wicketkeeper Ray Jordon the day before the match. It was a terribly hot day. We were having a beer. Slug, as we called Jordon, said to me, "Eh, Jar. You know what?" I said, "What?" He said, "Nah, nah. I'm not going to say it." I challenged him: "You a Victorian or a mouse?" Slug then said, "All right, I think Sobers is overrated."

Somehow Sobers found out what Slug had said. Victoria elected to bat, but we knocked 'em over for 101. Sobers got three wickets. Then he went in and made 124 and came out and got six more wickets as South Australia secured an innings-and-46-runs victory inside three days. So, Sobers beat Victoria all by himself. From then on, I'd say to Jordon, "Hey, Slug" and he would just walk away, saying, "Just leave me alone." And guess what, they docked us one day's pay for winning early!

There is an interesting related story. Bill Lawry, Victoria's captain, was once making a speech at a

public function. During the question time someone asked Lawry what he thought of South Australia, who had just won the Shield. "They are a one-man team," Lawry said. Rosemary, South Australian batsman John Lill's wife, stood up and asked Lawry: "Excuse me, Mr Lawry. Am I to believe one West Indian is better than 11 Victorians?"

**Vaneisa Baksh, Trinidadian writer and editor**

I have a story from when I was a child. He was visiting Trinidad and came to our primary school. I must have been seven or eight. Right outside the school was a small park (near the Aranjuez Savannah) and there were nets, and the whole school assembled to watch him, and I was standing there pressed up against the chain-link wire fence and a ball came my way and hit me in the belly. And all I could think was that I had been hit in the belly by Garfield Sobers.

**Rex Sellers, former Australia leg spinner**

It was November 1963. I was making a return to the state side, South Australia. We went to Victoria and I had got a couple of wickets when Colin Guest came in to bat. After two balls, Garry put up his hand and signalled to me that he had moved just about a metre from the hip of Guest, whom he had observed playing some awkward glances round to the leg side. I bowled a ball the other way and Guest played the same shot, and Garry took the catch virtually off the bat.

Later that season we were playing Queensland at the Gabba. To Ken Mackay, the Queensland captain, a left-handed batsman, I had been going wide of the return crease, bowling outside his off stump to try and get an angle to hit the off stump. Mackay was tending to let go balls that were not going to hit the stumps, and those that were, he seemed to drive easily. Garry came to me during the change of overs and said, "Look, why don't you bowl from closer to the stumps? Try and hit his leg stump by bowling inside that off stump and see if you can get one through his bat and pad." You can probably guess what happened: that is exactly what happened. He was very astute.

**Mark Nicholas, commentator and former Hampshire captain**

He turned up at Nottingham for the first time - 1968. The players hardly saw him till practice the day before the first Gillette Cup match [against Lancashire]. He was captain. It was cold and he came down the steps of the pavilion, wandered over to the nets wrapped tight in a sheepskin coat. He shook hands with everyone, watched for ten minutes, then left.

Next morning he arrived an hour before the game. Changed, put on a couple of jumpers, stretched and went out to toss. "We're bowling, fellas," he said. He took three for not many. Then they got into trouble chasing a low score, about 50 for 3 chasing 170-odd. He strolled out against the best seam attack in the country - Higgs, Statham, Shuttleworth, Lever and Wood - and made 75 not out. Notts won with ten overs to spare. After he received the Man-of-the-Match award, he came into the dressing room and said, "Well played all you fellas, now who we got in de next round?" Mike Taylor says they all just gawped at him in awe.

**Joseph "Reds" Perreira, West Indian radio commentator**

Garry Sobers and Ajit Wadekar went out to toss the coin in Port-of-Spain in the 1971 [second] Test match. There were no match referees back then. Up went the toss. There was a gentleman by the name of Ken Laughlin who went close to the square and faced the crowd and hit his chest to indicate West Indies had won the toss. He always used to do that, as he was a bit of a personality.

Sobers turns to Wadekar and says, "Ajit, I'll let you know what I'm doing." Ajit tells him, "No, Garry, I won the toss. I'll tell you." Sobers, the gentleman that he was, did not want to make a big issue and told Wadekar they should go up to the dressing room. He conceded to Wadekar eventually, and West Indies ended up losing the match. So, it was a good toss for India to win, so to speak.

As a batsman, Sobers was not all attacking and dominating. In Port-of-Spain against England in 1967-68, the match seemed to be heading for a boring draw. Having elected to bat England had made 568. West Indies were forced to follow-on after making 363. They had to bat the whole final day. They seemed to be going strong till around the tea break. Suddenly West Indies were eight down for 180.

Sobers was joined by Wesley Hall. There was still a whole session to go. The men were involved in this very tense, nail-biting partnership. All you had to come was Lance Gibbs, who was not known for his skills as a batsman. But Sobers was able to jockey the bowling, take as much of the strike as possible, especially during the early part of the partnership. At this stage [David] Brown and [Jeff] Jones were bowling short and hostile from round the wicket and over the wicket. The game ended in a draw with Sobers unbeaten on 33 - probably one of the slowest innings of his life. Hall came in not out on 26. At the end of the day Hall told the journalists, "Well, I wouldn't have worried about myself. I was just worried about the young man at the other end - would he have lasted?" He evoked instant great, great laughter.

**John Parkin, former Nottinghamshire batsman, and the non-striker during the six sixes**

After he had hit six sixes at St Helen's in Swansea we went into the bar, where Garry was pinned into a corner by the Glamorgan committee members. All of them wanted to talk about the six sixes, but Garry did not want all that. He was not that sort of person. He told us players, "Come on, lads, let us go back to the old tavern." Garry Sobers was not interested in world records, he was just interested in playing. He did not want to make too much of a fuss about the record. He wanted to keep it simple. That to me is the greatness of the man.

**Mike Procter, former South Africa allrounder**

He is such a likeable guy. In 1970, in the first Test at Lord's between Rest of the World and England, he was our captain. He was just so natural. Sobers played out of his skin: he scored 180-odd and took so many wickets [eight]. I knew him from county cricket, but just to see him play like that against the best in the world, as England were then, he was unbelievable. He got wickets with seam, with spin. In the end we won. And the best part came when at the end he just said, "Okay guys, see you at Trent Bridge." It was like nothing had happened.

At The Oval, in the final Test, on a turning pitch we needed about 20 runs chasing 200-plus [284]. I was privileged to join him at the end. He was again so natural, dealing with the bowling on a very,

very difficult wicket. He did not exaggerate his shots, just played them, knocked off the winning runs and away he went. His attitude was unbelievable.

"First there is Sir Garry Sobers, and then there are all the other great allrounders in Test cricket. Sir Don Bradman unquestionably qualifies as the best batsman ever seen in Tests, but several pundits are willing to bet that in terms of all-round match-winning ability, none has surpassed - and perhaps no one ever will - the sublime Sobers."

"Bradman himself called Sobers the **"five-in-one cricketer"**, and with good reason: apart from being an outstanding batsman and fielder, Sobers the bowler was so versatile that he could bowl three different styles - left-arm seam and swing, slow left-arm orthodox, and left-arm wrist spin. Sobers' skills with the ball allowed West Indies to often play an extra batsman - in fact, it was almost as if they were playing with 12 members in the team."

"Sobers' leading suit, though, was his ability with bat in hand. He finished with an average of almost 58, and even that doesn't do full justice to his skills. Throughout his career, Sobers never particularly bothered with trivialities like stats and numbers, which make his achievements even more remarkable. It's astonishing that even after scoring at a rate that most specialist batsmen couldn't keep pace with, Sobers still had enough talent to spare to go ahead and take 235 Test wickets at a bowling average of less than 35."

# Sobers: All-Rounder

Arunabha Sengupta is a cricket historian. He (born 1973) is an Indian sports writer and novelist. He writes about the history of cricket, with occasional statistical pieces and reflections on the modern game.

Here we provide his write up (26 Jan 2015) about Gary Sobers
which gives a brief and wonderful profile:

**"Garry Sobers - The greatest all-round cricketer of all time"**

http://cricmash.com/biographies/2015/1/26/garry-sobers-the-greatest-all-round-cricketer-of-all-time

Garry Sobers was an entertainer….

Garfield Sobers, born July 28, 1936, was simply the greatest all-round cricketer ever witnessed in the history of game. He was a freak of nature, who was the best of batsmen, most versatile of bowlers and the supreme acrobat among fieldsmen. Arunabha Sengupta looks back at the career of the man who was unique in the true sense of the word.

## Demystifying the Sobers code

Ray Robinson called him "evolution's ultimate specimen of cricketers."

CLR James, with his penchant for infusing the game with sentiments of emancipation, went further, marking him "the living embodiment of centuries of tortured history… a West Indian cricketer, not merely a cricketer from the West Indies."

Superlatives tripped liberally from tongues and pen of even the most prosaic and conservative chroniclers of the game, especially during the two decades when Garry Sobers reigned supreme. His giant shadow stretched across every department of the game, his mastery lending sparkle to every specialisation ever eked out of cricket, bar wicket-keeping. In the high noon of his dominance all those Jacks of all Trades, who had paraded themselves as all-rounders, took in the dimensions of his genius and scurried to find a new meaning of their lives and their cricket.

As a batsman he was undoubtedly the best in the world in his day, certainly the most sublime attacking stroke-player, and till this day stands as one of the most supreme wielders of the willow across the entire history of the game.

As a bowler, there have been many better, but none as versatile. He could take the new ball, run in quick and make it dart about. When the ball was older, he could spin it in time honoured orthodox manner. Or he could resort to turning it from the back of his hand, sharply and in both ways.

And as a fielder, he could pouch half-chances in the slip, and at leg-slip grab even those which did not register as chances at all. If, for the sake of variety he was placed in the covers, he could chase like a greyhound and pick up and throw in one action, searing, flat and accurate. He was undoubtedly the **greatest all-round fielder** of the era.

When he ended his career, he was the highest run-getter in Test cricket, with the highest individual score in an innings, the second highest wicket taker for West Indies and was third in world on the table of catches held by non-wicketkeepers.

In other words, he was a freak of nature, the likes of whom the world has never been seen before or since. There have been attempts to decipher the Sobers code. What was it that made him this incredible force who swept through the cricketing world for almost twenty years?

Some have suggested it was the oddity of his being born with six fingers in each hand.

Others have delved deep into the life and the man's own words, and have sought answers in the old cricket balls the young Sobers played with. They were scrounged from the rejects of the local Wanderers ground where Dennis Atkinson and others would have a hit. The balls, with ruptured seams, would be crudely stitched together by the local shoemaker, and would result in bizarre movements in the air.

Still others have put it down to the accident on the A34 near Stone in Staffordshire in 1957, with Sobers behind the wheel and the superbly talented Collie Smith sleeping in the back. The legend has often confessed that the death of Collie Smith had mortified him, and had led him to realise that from then he would have to play for himself and Smith.

But, to find a reasonable explanation of the stupendous feats we perhaps need to look at Lord's 1973, the last series of the great man in England.

When Sobers, 31 not out at the end of the day, was approached by Clive Lloyd for a night out. Never once in his career did Sobers say no to an evening of entertainment. They visited some Guyanese friends in London, and then spent time with former off-spinner Reg Scarlett in a nightclub. The drinking, interspersed with dancing, went on and the evening gradually stretched and stretched till it was four o'clock in the morning and the sun was starting to peep through the other end of the sky. By then, Sobers was past any need to sleep. "I have so much liquor in my head that if I go home to the hotel and go to bed, I am not going to wake up," he confessed to Scarlett. So, as the most obvious alternative, they went to Clarendon Court for some more drinks. And after a shower, Sobers padded up and walked out to resume his innings.

He played and missed the first five balls of the first over bowled by Bob Willis. And then the sixth struck the middle of the bat. And they continued to find the middle till he was 132, when he had to retire because of a desperate need to go to the toilet.

In the pavilion, he had his medicine — two glasses of port and brandy mixed together in a potent combination. And he went back to the crease to finish

unbeaten on 150. We need to remember that at that time Sobers was past his 37th birthday.

This exploit should in no way be read as the ideal habits for aspiring cricketers. It is anything but. The incident just demonstrates that Sobers was a curiosity who can never be estimated within the normal parameters that generally constrain a mortal being. There is no point in trying to demystify his methods. He was gifted with a talent beyond the realm of earthly men of flesh and blood. And besides, for every tale of such late night drinking sprees there were countless days of backbreaking hardwork away from the focus of public eye.

### Playing bugle to play cricket

Sobers was indeed born with six fingers in each hand. The first extra finger fell off before he was 10, jerked out with a piece of cat gut wrapped around the base and hauled off with a sharp tug. He played his first serious cricket match with 11 digits. The remaining additional finger was severed with the help of a sharp knife when Sobers was 14.

The greatest all-rounder the world has seen was brought up with his brothers by his mother. His father, a seaman working in the Canadian merchant navy, was serving on *The Lady Hawkins* when it was sunk by the Germans in early 1942. Sobers was just five at that time.

Along with his brothers, he took to the game early. At the local Wanderers ground he helped to put up numbers on the scoreboard and watched Frank Worrell, Clyde Walcott, Everton Weekes and others play their club cricket. His earliest games were played with a tennis ball on hard pitches. Sobers was the one of the few players to stand upright and play with a straight bat at the bouncing tennis balls.

Insurance salesman Dennis Atkinson, a Test player of the day, often left work early and got to the Wanderers to have a bit of extra hit before the other cricketers arrived. He looked for bowlers who could send down a few deliveries, and local groundsman, Briggs Grandison, suggested that young Sobers was good enough to have a go. Atkinson had Sobers bowl to him regularly, and often put a shilling placed on each stump, for the taking if the teenager could knock them off.

It was Atkinson who recommended Sobers to Captain Wilfred Farmer, the local inspector of police. The young lad was asked to turn out for the Police Cricket Club. To make the inclusion legitimate, he was asked to play the bugle for the police band.

When he went for trials at Barbados, Sobers stood in the covers in his shorts and picked up the ferocious drives of Clyde Walcott with supreme ease, something no fielder in the island could dream of doing. He caught the eye immediately, with his orthodox left-arm spin and his incredible fielding.

Sobers was just 16 and still playing in his shorts when he was chosen as a last minute replacement against the touring Indians of 1952-53. It was to be his First-Class debut. The family could not afford flannels and the Barbados Cricket Association presented Sobers with his first cricket outfit. Sobers bowled to Polly Umrigar, and started with two maidens. The Indian maestro got fed up at this little fellow tying him up and launched him over the Kensington stand for six. Two balls later, Sobers pushed a straight one through and bowled him as Umrigar played for turn. His figures for the match were 22-5-50-4 and 67-35-92-3. Not too bad for a 16-year-old left-arm spinner.

### The 'spirit' of Test cricket

A year later, by now a regular for Barbados, Sobers turned out for his island against Len Hutton's Englishmen. He picked up a few wickets, but the match was more memorable for his short innings. He was bowled by Tony Lock but survived as the bowler was called for throwing. That was the match in which Fred Trueman bowled him a bouncer which had Sobers in an awkward position. As he ducked, his bat jerked up, hitting him on the forehead. According to his autobiography, that was the last time Sobers ducked to a bouncer.

Sobers still played cricket on the street with his friends, and was engaged in one such game when a cable from the West Indies Board arrived requesting him to join the team for the Fourth Test at Trinidad.

Arriving in Port-of-Spain, he picked up a wicket in his very first over — getting Trevor Bailey caught behind. Perhaps it prompted Bailey to be his first-ever biographer. The Essex all-rounder published *Sir Gary* in 1976, and the book unfortunately was almost as slow and laborious as his batting.

The final bowling analysis Sobers managed on his debut was four for 75 from 28.5 overs, but Len Hutton scored 205 and West Indies lost by eight wickets. Sobers batted at No 9 and scored 14 not out and 26.

The next few years were not really sparkling with success, but the young man picked up plenty of nuggets of experience along the way which would stand him in good stead over the course of his career.

The strong Australian side visited the next year to humiliate the hosts in the Test series. Keith Miller and Ray Lindwall terrorised the batting with their lightning quick deliveries, and as a quaint diversion, also belted centuries with their bats.But, they also taught Sobers the valuable lesson of enjoying himself during the cricket tours. They banged on his door late at night, and sat with him with drinks, exchanging stories, making the young lad feel at home in the big league, and instructing him about the 'spirit' that should always accompany cricket.

Those were the days when the batting ability of Sobers was only partially recognised, and at Georgetown caretaker captain Atkinson sent him out to open the innings. It was a sacrificial manoeuvre, in a desperate attempt to protect the Three Ws from the new ball. Sobers struck 10 boundaries in a quick-fire 43, to give a minute preview of his potential.

### On top of the world

An unhappy New Zealand tour followed, a country where Sobers never quite managed to enjoy success. And England in 1957 was a nightmare for West Indians, and Sobers did not have a great time himself. But, he did well enough in the tour matches to land himself a job as a professional for Radcliffe in the Central Lancashire League. He would go on to play there for five years, and then for Norton in the Staffordshire League.

The English pitches taught him the virtues of playing balls according to merit. The conditions also prompted him to try his hand at medium pace. It took many days to perfect his action and learn the intricacies of swing, but Sobers became good enough to open the West Indian bowling.

And finally, he also experimented with wrist spin, and soon was to bowl in all three styles in Test matches.

Yet, at the end of the second home Test against Pakistan in 1958, Sobers as an international cricketer had accumulated just moderate returns. His 16 Tests had brought him 856 runs at 34.24 and 21 wickets at 40.33. He had shown promise but little of it had been converted to results at the highest level.

The world of cricket underwent a startling change at Kingston during the third Test. Sobers, sent in at number three, scored his first hundred and made it huge. Indeed, he made it enormous. With Conrad Hunte he added 446 for the second wicket before a direct hit from mid-off ended the opener's innings for 260.Sobers continued to pile on a massive score to break the world record set by Len Hutton two decades earlier. He ended unbeaten on 365, and it stood for 36

years as the highest individual innings in Test cricket. The milestone resulted in a minor stampede of enthusiastic fans on the pitch. Cables and messages of congratulations followed from around the world, including one from Hutton himself. In his homeland, Barbados Cricket Association and the government had a motorcade waiting for him at the airport.

More importantly, it was a watershed moment for Sobers the batsman. His willow entered a phase of supreme brilliance that remained undimmed till his retirement 16 years down the line. From the Kingston match till the end of his career, Sobers scored 7176 runs in 77 Tests at 62.94 with 26 hundreds. He had come a long way from the rookie left-arm spinner who was also quite handy with the bat down the order. He was now the very best batsman in the world.

**The world stands conquered**

After the 365, Sobers commenced a period of making up for lost time. All those hundred-less years were compensated. Centuries in each innings followed in the very next Test. Three more hundreds were amassed in the 1958-59 tour of India. He started with 142 not out in Bombay. Unfortunately run out for 198 in Kanpur, he missed out on another double hundred. But, 106 followed at Calcutta. It was his sixth hundred in the last six Test matches.

And after Pakistani umpires openly targeted him in a series of most ridiculous decisions, Sobers returned to West Indies to score 226 against England at Barbados, adding 399 with Worrell. Sobers and Worrell became the first pair to bat through two complete days in Test cricket. Two more hundreds followed in that series.
The 1960-61 tour to Australia was an epochal landmark in West Indian cricket. Worrell became the first black man to lead West Indies on an official cricket tour. The quality of cricket during the series remained exhilarating and the spirit exemplary.

The first Test in Brisbane became the most talked about game in history, ending in the first-ever Tie. Sobers etched his name in sparkling characters over that gilt edged page of history by scoring 132 splendid runs. Don Bradman, watching the innings, remarked that it was the greatest he had ever seen in Australia. It also brought Sobers his 3000 runs in just his 33rd Test.

Another sublime 168 followed at Sydney, and in the final Test at Melbourne he hit 64 before bowling 44 overs, 41 of them unchanged, to capture five wickets for 120 in front of a record crowd of 90,800. Bradman was impressed enough to recommend him for the South Australian team. For the next few years Sobers turned out in the Sheffield Shield. It was for South Australia under the captaincy

of Les Favell, Sobers was encouraged to try out all styles of his bowling in match situations.

This was the period of absolute supremacy. Sobers had no parallel in the world with the bat or all round skill. Every series saw him score hundreds in torrents. Or he would be rolling his arm over to capture five wickets. All the while he would be witnessed performing spectacular dives to come up with near miraculous catches.

From 1961 to 1968, Sobers scored 3106 runs at 63.38 with nine hundreds and captured 125 wickets at 27.93 with every type of bowling with five five-fors. During this period he held 60 catches as well. All this accomplished in just 33 Tests.

He was named the Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1964, for his 332 runs and 20 wickets during the riveting England tour of 1963. However, his genius reached new levels when he went there again in 1966, this time as captain. In five Tests of extraordinary accomplishments, he transfixed crowds and befuddled statisticians, scoring 722 runs with three hundreds at 103.14, capturing 20 wickets at 27.25 and holding 10 catches. The third hundred, 174 at Leeds, was an unique gem in all this glitter, scored in 240 minutes with 24 boundaries, with 103 scored between lunch and tea. He proceeded to capture five for 41 in the first England innings, ending it with a spell of three for nothing from seven balls. And coming back he took three for 39 in the second as the rubber was secured. His performances during the tour earned him a simple title: 'King of Cricket'.

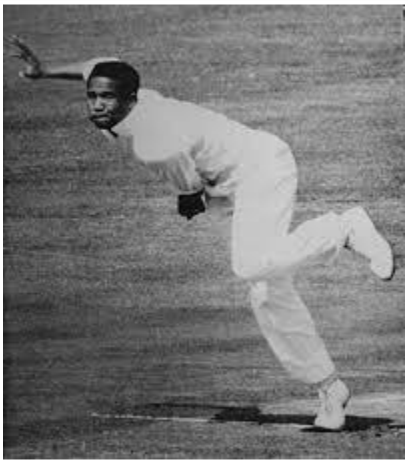
### The uneasy crown

Yet, king that he was on the field, he was a reluctant leader when under the insistence of Worrell, the reins were passed on to him in 1965-66. Sobers the night-owl was never one for discipline or curfew, and he was not going to impose it on his team. Moreover he had no time for inter-island politics which formed a big component of team selection in West Indies. There were plenty of considerations and dilemmas but finally he accepted the job.

He started impressively, capturing his 100th Test wicket and leading West Indies to their first series triumph against Australia. Then he had that magnificent series in England, laying to rest any misgiving that captaincy might affect his performances with bat and ball.

In 1966-67, Sobers took his side to India. He hit half centuries in all five innings, picked up 14 wickets in three Tests and won the series comprehensively. He was acknowledged as the champion cricketer of the world, and he seemed to have no

limitation. And with additional responsibility, Sobers perhaps experienced a new phase in his life.



Always ready to go out with the local girls of whatever country he was touring in, he now fell head over heels in love with 17-year-old Indian actress Anju Mahendru. It made huge headlines, and the engagement was announced with a lot of fanfare. The wedding of Nawab of Pataudi and Sharmila Tagore had taken place only recently, and the press was delighted with a possible encore.

The engagement had to be broken off later as the relationship could not survive the challenges of long distance and separation. Sobers eventually got married to an Australian girl, Pru Kirby.

However, during the 1966-1967 period it seemed that the additional responsibilities of captaincy had been taken in the stride of his infinite abilities.

Things changed when Colin Cowdrey's Englishmen visited the Caribbean in 1967-68. Sobers was his imperious self, slamming 113 and taking three for 33 at Kingston and following it up with 68 at Bridgetown. However, he made the fatal decision in Port of Spain.

Fed up with the negative methods of the Englishmen who bowled 12 to 13 overs per hour all through the series, Sobers declared the second innings at 92 for two, setting the visitors a challenging target of 215 on the final day. Unfortunately, England got there with seven wickets in hand, and the barbs of criticism flew thick and fast. According to Sobers it had been a team decision, in consultation with manager Everton Weekes, with an eye on the turning wicket and three spinners in the team. But the players and management did not back up his claims. Weekes made matters worse by saying, "You can't tell Garry Sobers anything."

From an extremely successful skipper, he slipped into the role of a villain who had lost a Test match because of a whimsical decision. He tried hard to even things out in the final Test at Georgetown, hitting 152 and 95 not out and taking six wickets, but England hung on for a draw. The decision had cost Sobers and West Indies the series.

By now Wes Hall and Charlie Griffith, the two pace bowlers who had been the architects of wins during the glorious years, had passed away from the scene. With little or no pace available at his disposal, Sobers was forced to open the

bowling, and then he teamed up with Lance Gibbs and sometimes David Holford to form a spin attack as well.

By now, a floating bone in the shoulder had started hampering his wrist spinning action. Hence, he was back to his orthodox slow left-arm bowling. With this style he picked up six for 73 to bowl West Indies to victory in the first Test at Brisbane during the 1968-69 series. The genius of Sobers had unveiled yet another facet.

However, after that it was all downhill for his captaincy. Australia came back to win three of the remaining four Tests. They lost the series in England in 1969. And while he battled on, scoring three hundreds and a ninety in the home series against India in 1970-71, the visitors made history by triumphing in the Caribbean for the very first time.

Following this, an incredibly drab stalemate was played out across five Tests against a limited New Zealand side.

The personal form of Sobers did not suffer, but the West Indian team had been reduced from being a champion side to wallowing in mediocrity. Battling with knee problems, Sobers made himself unavailable for captaincy after the home series against New Zealand in 1972.

### Great feats continue

The great man himself did have incredible moments away from the Test field as well. When Nottinghamshire hired him in 1968 for £5,000 per season, accommodation, car and tickets to Barbados, Sobers enjoyed a rollicking season. It culminated in the six sixes in an over struck off Malcolm Nash in Swansea.

Leading Rest of the World against England in the summer of 1970, Sobers unleashed perhaps his best all-round performance ever. At Lord's, in seaming conditions, he made the ball talk, picking up six wickets for 21 in 20 overs, bowling England out for 127. And then he proceeded to hammer 183 with the bat in a total of 546. The Rest of the World took the series 4-1. Sobers scored 583 runs at 73.50 and captured 21 wickets at 21.52. Unfortunately, contrary to the assurance given to Sobers at the beginning of the series, these matches were not accorded Test match status.

And then there was the incredible innings for World XI in 1971-72 against a fire-breathing Dennis Lillee. According to the autobiography of Sobers, on a Perth wicket that made the ball fly at the rate of knots, the pace of the young Australian fast bowler had prompted openers Sunil Gavaskar and Farokh Engineer

to refuse genuine singles to avoid getting on strike.Lillee had got him for a duck in the first innings with an unplayable delivery. In response, in the following match at Melbourne, Sobers had bounced Lillee and intimidated him into scooping a catch to mid-off. When Sobers came in for his knock, Lillee was charged up, running in at furious pace.

What followed was carnage. Sobers started with a blistering square-cut past point that sped to the fence at a rate almost approaching the speed of light. It set the tone for the day. When the ball was up, he drove — with timing and power beyond the capability of lesser men. When it was short and wide, he cut or drove off the backfoot with a ferocity that was primal in beauty and brutality. And when deliveries came rearing into his body, he rocked back to pull and hook, furious and fearless.

Lillee, Bob Massie, Terry Jenner and Kerrie O'Keefe combined into an intimidating attack. All of them were slaughtered with a blade that flashed in a manner both savage and sublime. The fast men were carted all around the wicket. The spinners were driven and lofted with uncanny quickness of eye and feet, and a thorough disdain for their length, line and reputation.

When he walked back for 254,the Australians applauded him all the way to the pavilion. Lillee remarked, "I have had by arse cut properly today. I had heard about you and read about you and now I have seen you. I really appreciate it."

Unfortunately, even this fascinating series did not get into the Test match record books. On the other hand, the one sided Australia versus Rest of the World affair of 2005 has found its way to Test recognition.

### Rhodesian Affair

It was while leading Rest of the World in England in 1970 that Sobers was approached by Eddie Barlow to play a double-wicket tournament in Rhodesia. As a professional cricketer, and absolutely ignorant in matters of international politics, Sobers saw no reason to refuse. He was being paid £600 for two days of effort, which seemed an excellent deal. He partnered Ali Bacher and enjoyed himself. He also had lunch with Ian Smith, the Rhodesian premier. After the meeting, he described Smith as a great man to talk to.

This led to all sorts of complications. The leader of the neighbouring Gambian nation raised objection with a West Indian dignitary visiting their country at the very same time: "How can we be blood brothers when one of your greatest ambassadors is having tea with Ian Smith and telling the world how good he is?"

Forbes Burnham, the Marxist Prime Minister of Guyana, announced Sobers would not be welcome in his country unless he apologised. Dr. Eric Williams, Prime Minister of Trinidad, also voiced concerns once Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared that she would not allow the Indian team travel for the forthcoming tour unless the matter was sorted out. Williams sent Wes Hall to speak to Sobers and find out what exactly was going on.

Errol Barrow, the Prime Minister of Sobers' native Barbados, was in America and cut short his trip because of the furore. Finally, after discussions with the all-rounder, Barrow drafted a letter to the Guyana Board of Control for Sobers to sign. This apology was publicised in the papers and broadcast across the islands, and finally brought an end to two months of front page news.

### Even Sobers had problems with selectors

Even a superb performer like Sobers had to deal with some problems with the selectors during the last phase of his career. After recovering from knee surgery, he participated in a match for Barbados and was happy with his fitness. However, Jeff Stollmeyer and Clyde Walcott, the selectors, insisted that he had to play more matches to prove his fitness in order to be selected against Australia in 1972-73. A furious Sobers, who in his heyday had been persuaded by the same men to turn out in spite of his injuries, refused to play in any extra match. He was not picked for the series and West Indies lost.

Ian Chappell, the Australian captain, did not help the cause of the selectors when he left Caribbean with the remark, "We may have beaten the West Indies, but I don't believe we have achieved much because we had come to play against Garry Sobers."

This led to a furious outburst of emotions of the Caribbean fans. They had severely criticised Sobers' omission, and Chappell's words were like a keg of gunpowder touched with flame. Walcott was booed, jeered and even threatened. Walcott's son was taunted in his school. When Sobers scored that drink-powered 150 at Lord's in the very next series, the public wrath against Walcott reached its zenith. The argument on the lips of everyone was if Sobers was good enough to score those runs now, he must have been equally good against Australia. Sobers had to appear with Walcott in public to calm things down, announcing that there was no problem between him and the selectors.

After his triumphant England tour of 1973, Sobers played one last series — against England at home in 1973-74. It was not an ideal swansong, and he managed only one fifty in the four matches. Derek Underwood bowled him for 20 in his last innings at Port of Spain, bringing the amazing career to an end.

Sobers ended with 8032 runs in 93 Tests, at an average of 57.78. The aggregate remained a record for eight years before Geoff Boycott went past it in 1981-82. The 26 centuries Sobers scored stood second only to Don Bradman's 29 at the time of his retirement.

With the ball, Sobers captured 235 wickets at 34.03, with six five-fors. And in his 93 Tests he took 109 catches.

### The batsman

A most natural strokeplayer, Sobers was said to have at least three strokes for any ball. His natural instinct was to attack, and that he did without restraint. According to Barry Richards, Sobers was "the only 360-degree player in the game" —from his back lift to follow through, the bat traversed a perfect and complete circle.
However, as his average indicates, Sobers was much more than pure attack. His style was based on the solid substance of his back foot in perfect level with the off stump, letting him know which balls could be left alone and which had to be played. When he drove through the off-side he looked at once classy and fierce. In his cuts and pulls it was brilliance in brutality. The remarkable feature of Sobers was the number of runs he managed to make while batting low down the order, collaborating with the tail. He hardly ever farmed the strike, preferring to protect the tail-ender by arming him with his confidence.

The genius of Garry Sobers's dexterity with the willow spared no bowler in the world © Getty Images

While he was known to be a backfoot player with excellent eye and fabulous timing, his game was much more than that. Every bowler he played was studied with detail. And soon, he picked up tell-tale signals from the run up and the last few steps prior to delivery, to know exactly what type of delivery was coming at him. Although he stayed absolutely still until the ball was released, this extra fraction of a second enabled him to get into position quicker than most. He preferred to read spinners off the hand rather than in the air or off the pitch, and could dance down the wicket with tinkle toed grace.

And his entire set of methods and repertoire was self-developed, untaught and uncoached.

### The Bowler(s)

When he made his debut as an orthodox left-arm spinner, young Sobers had the ability to maintain accuracy through long spells. He did not turn the ball much, but

varied his length, and mixed the straighter one amongst his normal breaks. While with Radcliffe, he added the other dimensions to his bowling. The back of the hand Chinaman bowling helped him purchase appreciably more turn. Often even the wicketkeeper went the other way to his googly. His shoulder, however, fell prey to his bowling the wrong 'un too often.

As a fast-medium bowler, he could be quite nippy off his 11-step run up. Neil Harvey once said that on occasions Sobers could be faster than Wes Hall. His bouncer was indeed more difficult to pick since it accompanied no change in his action. Not many batsmen could successfully play the hook off him. His natural ball was the inswinger, and it moved quite a way. Geoff Boycott fell prey to his late inswing quite often, the ball trapping him leg-before multiple times. Yet, he sometimes wasted the new ball swinging it too much and too often down the leg side. His outswinger did not possess that extravagant amount of movement, but could straighten or leave the bat just enough to pick up an edge.

Above all no bowler could lay claim to the amount of versatility Sobers brought to the table, switching between styles according to the conditions.

### The Fielder

As a fielder, Sobers was brilliant in the slips, and fast in the covers, but it was at backward short leg and leg-slip that he turned into an acrobat. Standing there to the off-breaks of Lance Gibbs, he enjoyed being in the game every ball. Sometimes he would creep up and hold the ball off the face of the bat. Only once was Sobers hit while fielding close in. To a tossed up ball from Gibbs, Ian Chappell went forward and at the last moment changed his stroke to a sweep. It came to him like a bullet, hit him on his chest and Sobers clutched it and held it there. Chappell stomped off with an agonised cry of, "Sobey, you b*******."

Sobers practiced regularly to the slip machine. He would bounce balls off the wall and the ground to sharpen reflexes. As a youngster he would throw stones at mangoes and catch them before they fell and burst on the ground. He also sharpened his skills by hitting a table-tennis ball against a wall over and over again.

### The other facets of versatility

Additionally, Sobers was a wizard with numbers. He could do calculations without pen, paper or calculator, and seldom had to look at the scoreboard during a match.

Every run and wicket was securely stored in his head. Yes, in many ways Sobers is way beyond the parameters meant for lesser mortals.

According to Fred Trueman, Sobers "had a great cricketing brain and his thought processes were lightning quick".

Sobers was also a scratch golfer during his playing days and remained so after his retirement. Throughout his career he was an enthusiastic and incorrigible punter on horses and a major patron of the casinos. His versatility did not end there. In 1967, he authored *Bonaventure and the Flashing Blade*, a children's novel in which computer analysis helps a university cricket team become unbeatable.

In 1975, Garfield Sobers was knighted for his services to cricket. In 1998, the

Barbados government proclaimed him a National Hero, and he was accorded the honorary prefix "The Right Excellent." Five years later, in 2003, he was appointed Officer of the Order of Australia for his stint with South Australia in the Sheffield Shield. The next year, the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy was unveiled, awarded annually to the International Cricket Council Player of the Year.

Sobers coached Sri Lanka for a while in the 1980s before moving to the role of commentator and critic. While the numbers speak eloquently about the almost miraculous deeds that Sobers performed through his career, it takes a look of a photograph or a clip of one of his flourishing strokes through the off side to get a flavour of the cricket the man played. Every moment on the field for him was an exhilarating expression of his infinite zest for life, unbridled, unrestrained and forever unequalled. The elegance, the force and the charm of his game resonated in one word — natural.

In 2000, Sobers was named one of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Century, along with Don Bradman he was the only unanimous choice of the panellists. And like Bradman he may be one of those few unique players in the history of the game— cricketers who are erratic mutations in the order of nature, to be witnessed only once across the bank and shoal of time.

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# Pictures speak

ENGLAND - JUNE 12: West Indies bowler Garry Sobers in bowling action during a tour match in England circa 1966 in England, United Kingdom.
(Photo by Don Morley/Allsport/Getty Images/Hulton Archive)

England cricket captain Brian Close (1931 - 2015, left) and West Indies captain Garfield Sobers on the balcony of the pavillion at The Oval , London, after England won the fifth and final test against the West Indies by an innings and 34 runs, 22nd August 1966.
(Photo by Central Press/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

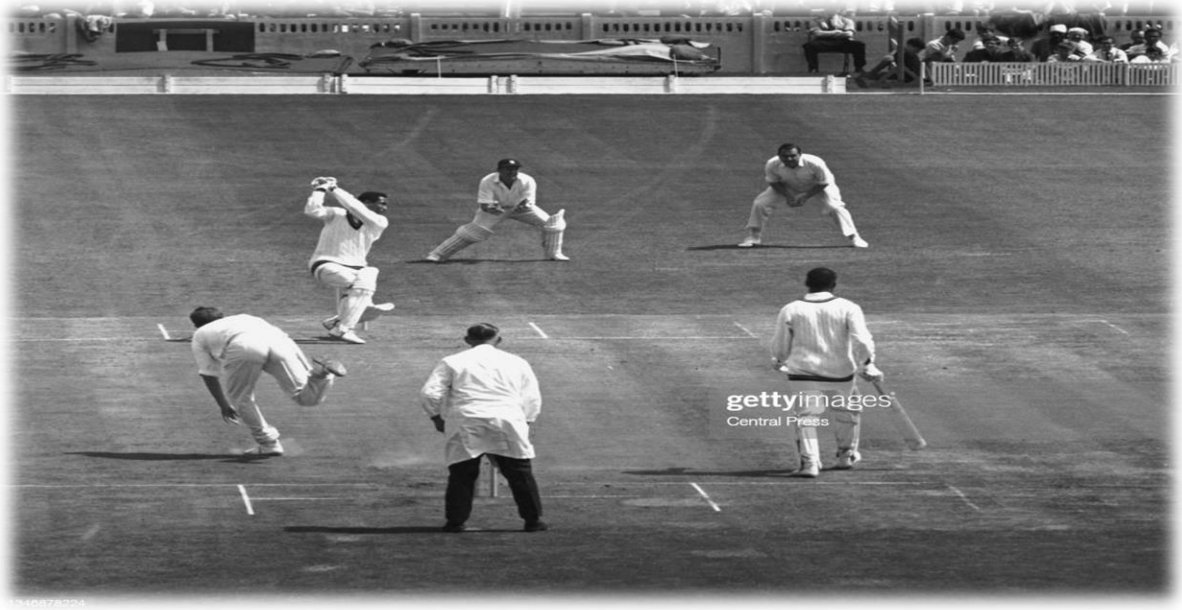
West Indian cricketer Garfield Sobers receives a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Barbados, by Serge February 1975. (Photo Lemoine/Getty Images)

The West Indian cricket team during their tour of England, UK, 1963. From left to right, (back row) George Duckworth, Willie Rodriguez, Seymour Nurse, Joey Carew, Charlie Griffith, Lester King, Easton McMorris, Lance Gibbs, Basil Butcher and physiotherapist William Pye; (middle row) Berkeley Gaskin (manager), Rohan Kanhai, Conrad Hunte, Frank Worrell (captain), Wes Hall, Garfield or Gary Sobers, Alf Valentine, and H. Burnett (assistant manager); front row: Deryck Murray, Joe Solomon and David Allan.
(Photo by Evening Standard/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

Barbados born West Indies cricketer Garfield Sobers (Gary Sobers) marries Australian born Prue Kirby at a ceremony in Nottingham, England on 11th September 1969.
(Photo by Rolls Press/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Rohan Kanhai from Guyana and West Indies team captain Garry Sobers from Barbados walk onto the field during the first innings of the 5th Test match of the West Indies versus England series on 28th March 1968 at the Bourda (Georgetown) Cricket Ground in Georgetown, Guyana.
The match was drawn with England winning the series 1 - 0.
(Photo by Central Press/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

Batsman Garfield Sobers, captain of the West Indies cricket team and wicketkeeper Jim Parks look on as England slip fielder Colin Cowdrey dives in an attempt to catch the ball off a delivery by David Brown during the first innings of the First Test on 3rd June 1966 at the Old Trafford Cricket Ground in Manchester, England. The West Indies won by an innings and 40 runs. (Photo by Dennis Oulds and Roger Jackson/Central Press/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)




England wicketkeeper Jim Parks and slip fielder Colin Cowdrey look on as batsman Garfield Sobers, captain of the West Indies cricket team plays a cover drive off a delivery by David Brown during the first innings of the First Test on 3rd June 1966 at the Old Trafford Cricket Ground in Manchester, England. The West Indies won by an innings and 40 runs. (Photo by Dennis Oulds and Roger Jackson/Central Press/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

Gary Sobers bowling, England v West Indies, 1st Test, The Oval, July 1973.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

Garry Sobers batting for West Indies during his innings of 150 in the 3rd Test match between England and West Indies at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 24th August 1973.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA - JANUARY 25: Australian batsman Ian Chappell is out, caught by Garry Sobers of the West Indies (far right) off the bowling of Lance Gibbs for 76 during the 4th Test match between Australia and the West Indies at the Adelaide Oval on January 25th 1969 in Adelaide, Australia. (Photo by Paul Popper/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Garry Sobers batting for Nottinghamshire during the County Championship match between Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire at the County Ground, Northampton, 19th August 1971. The Northamptonshire wicketkeeper is Laurie Johnson. (Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

England batsman Tony Lock drives a ball from West Indies bowler Gary Sobers during the fifth and final test at Georgetown Guyana, 4th April 1968. Behind him are wicket-keeper Deryck Murray and George Camacho of the West Indies (Photo by Central Press/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

JOHANNESBURG - MARCH 23: Sachin Tendulkar of India is presented the Man of the Series trophy by Sir Garfield Sobers after the ICC Cricket World Cup Final between India and Australia at The Wanderers, in Johannesburg, South Africa on March 23, 2003. (Photo by Michael Steele/Getty Images)

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - NOVEMBER 30: Former cricketer Garfield Sobers (C) attends the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony at Heroes Square on November 30, 2021 in Bridgetown, Barbados. The Prince of Wales arrived in the country ahead of its transition to a republic within the Commonwealth. This week, it formally removes Queen Elizabeth as its head of state and the current governor-general, Dame Sandra Mason, will be sworn in as president. (Photo by Jeff J Mitchell - Pool/Getty Images)

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - JANUARY 19 : Darren Bravo poses for a photograph in front of the Sir Garfield Sobers statue during a West Indies training session at Kensington Oval on January 19, 2019 in Bridgetown, Barbados. (Photo by Philip Brown/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

Mike Procter of Gloucestershire and South Africa is presented with the Reg Hayter Cup by West Indies' cricketer Garry Sobers at Edgbaston, Birmingham, July 1970. The award was introduced in 1970 for the Players' Player of the Year. Procter and Sobers were playing for Rest of the World during a five-match series against England. (Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

LONDON, ENGLAND - JUNE 10: Sir Garfield Sobers rings the five minute bell in memory of Mohammed Ali during day two of the 3rd Investec Test match between England and Sri Lanka at Lord's Cricket Ground on June 10, 2016 in London, United Kingdom. (Photo by Matthew Lewis/Getty Images)

18th August 1970: The captain of the Rest of the World Cricket team Gary Sobers with the Guinness Trophy, after his team beat England at the Final Test match held at the Oval.
(Photo by Central Press/Getty Images)

Garry Sobers of West Indies is escorted from the field by a throng of young fans on day four of the 1st Test match between England and West Indies at The Oval, London, 30th July 1973. West Indies won the match by 158 runs. (Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

Actors Hal Frederick (seated) and Esther Anderson pose with West Indian cricketer Garfield Sobers on the set of the film Two Gentlemen Sharing, in London circa 1968.
(Photo by Paul Popper/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

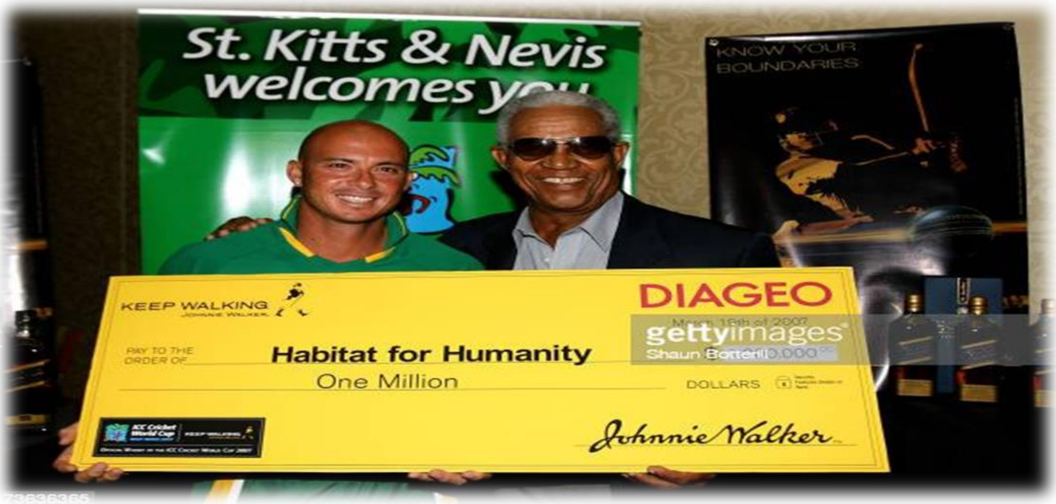
Rest of the World XI captain Garry Sobers is presented with the winner's cheque during the presentation ceremony after the 3rd match of the five-match series between England and a Rest of the World XI, at Edgbaston, Birmingham, 21st July 1970. Rest of the World XI won the match by 5 wickets.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

England captain Ray Illingworth is caught at leg slip for 0 by Garry Sobers of West Indies (2nd right) off the bowling of Lance Gibbs (not in picture) during the 3rd Test match between England and West Indies at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 25th August 1973. The non-striking batsman for England is Tony Greig and the other fielders for West Indies are (from left): Rohan Kanhai, Clive Lloyd, wicketkeeper Deryck Murray and Keith Boyce. West Indies won the match by and innings and 226 runs.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

West Indies players Clive Lloyd and Garry Sobers celebrate in the team dressing room after West Indies won the 1st Test match between England and West Indies by 158 runs at The Oval, London, 31st July 1973.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

The West Indies touring team at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 4th July 1973. Back row, left to right: L Pink (physiotherapist), Alvin Kallicharran, Inshan Ali, Bernard Julien, Keith Boyce, Vanburn Holder, Grayson Shillingford, Ron Headley, Maurice Foster, Elquemedo Willett, David Murray; Front row: Esmond Kentish (manager), Deryck Murray, Clive Lloyd, Garry Sobers, Rohan Kanhai (captain), Lance Gibbs, Roy Fredericks, Glendon Gibbs (assistant manager). (Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images).

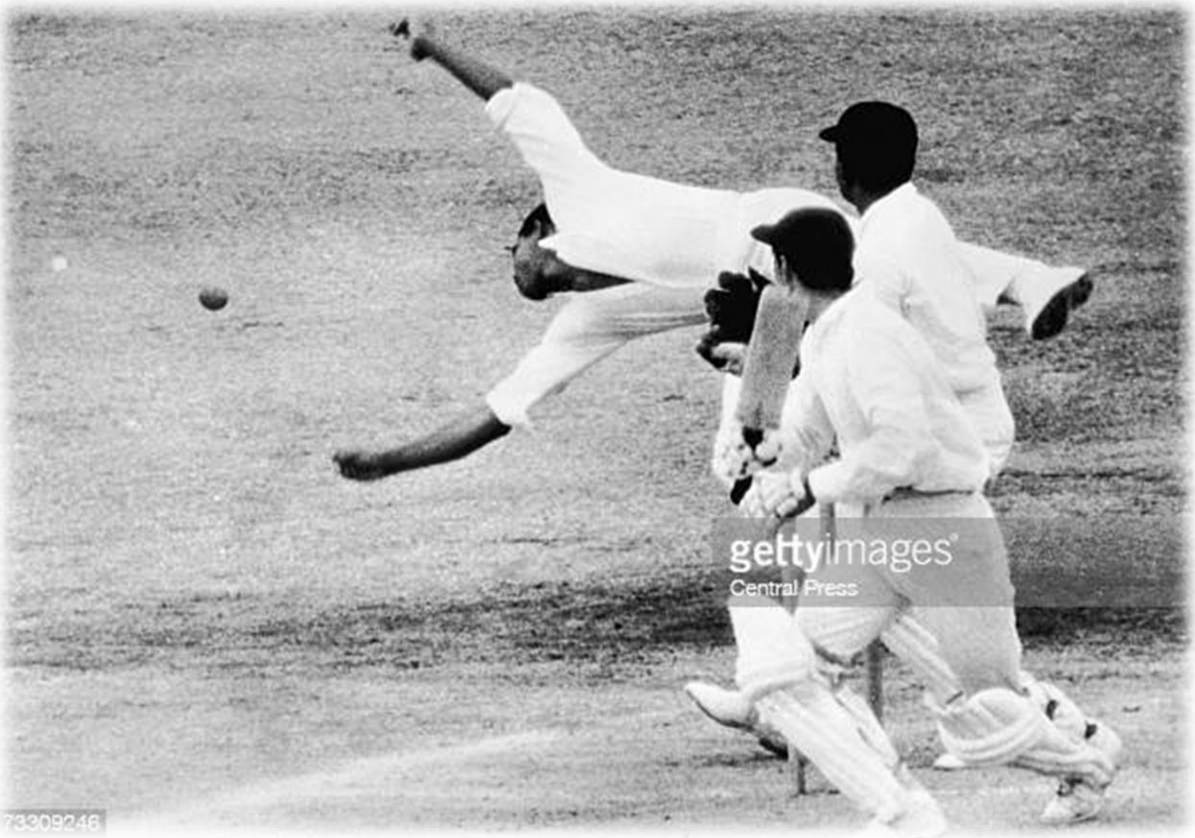
Mike Procter of Gloucestershire and South Africa (2nd left) is presented with the Reg Hayter Cup by West Indies' cricketer Garry Sobers at Edgbaston, Birmingham, July 1970. The award was introduced in 1970 for the Players' Player of the Year. Procter and Sobers were playing for Rest of the World during a five-match series against England. Also pictured are Dennis Amiss (left) and Tony Greig of England.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)




BASSETERRE, ST KITTS AND NEVIS - MARCH 19: Herschelle Gibbs of South Africa talks to the media before receives a million dollar cheque for charity from Sir Garfield Sobers after hitting six sixes in one over against the Netherlands during a Press Conference and Cheque Presentation at The St Kitts and Nevis Marriot Resort on March 19, 2007 in Basseterre, St Kitts and Nevis.
(Photo by Shaun Botterill/Getty Images)

Garry Sobers of Nottinghamshire survives a runout attempt during the Benson and Hedges Cup Quarter Final between Worcestershire and Nottinghamshire at New Road, Worcester, 13th June 1973. The bowler for Worcestershire is Jim Cumbes and the fielders include wicketkeeper Rodney Cass, Alan Ormrod (3rd right) and captain Norman Gifford (far right). Worcestershire won the match by 89 runs.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Umpire Syd Buller leaves the field in conversation with David Halfyard of Nottinghamshire during a rain delay in the County Championship match between Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire at Edgbaston, Birmingham, followed by Dennis Amiss of Warwickshire (centre) and Garry Sobers of Nottinghamshire (right), 7th August 1970. A few minutes later Buller collapsed and died in the pavilion.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)




West Indies captain Gary Sobers dives to catch a shot from Knott during the fourth day of the 4th test match against England at the Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad, 22nd March 1968.
(Photo by Central Press/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

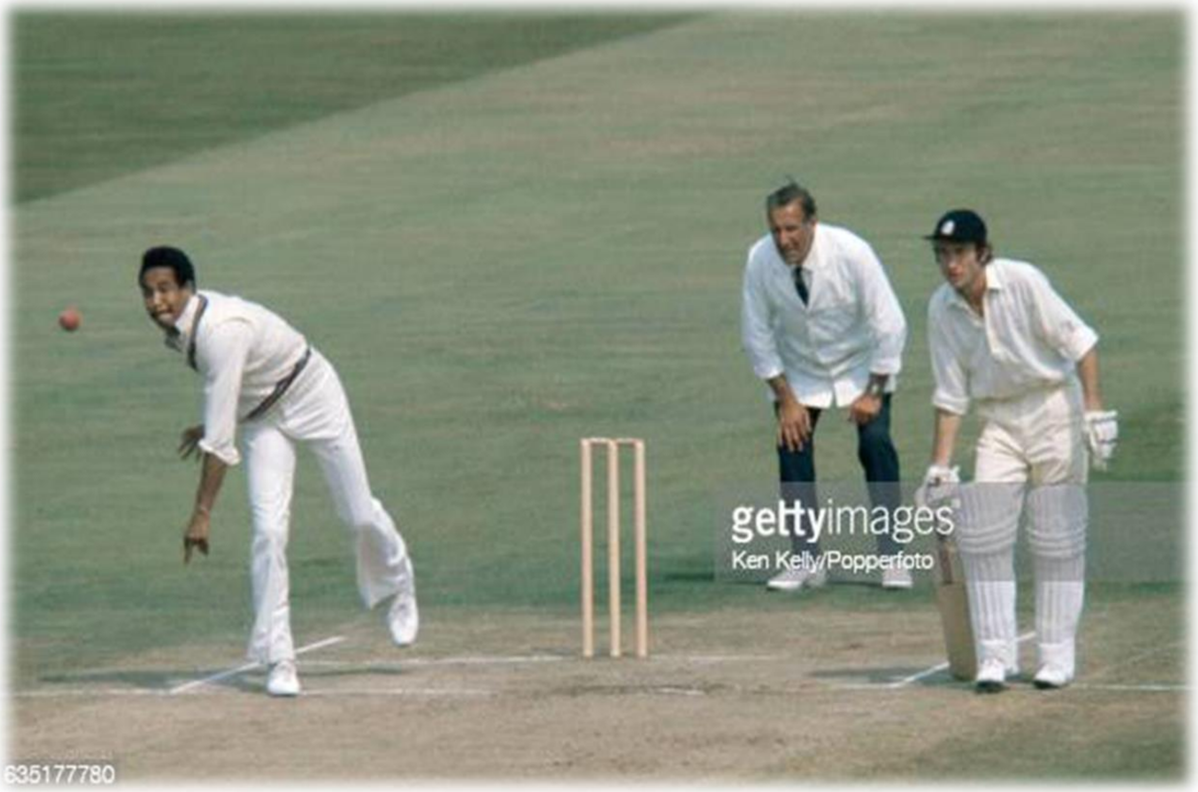
West Indies wicketkeeper Deryck Murray collides with England opening batsman Geoffrey Boycott after an unsuccessful attempt at a run-out during the first innings of the 2nd Test match between England and West Indies at Edgbaston, Birmingham, 10th August 1973. The onlooking West Indies fielders are Garry Sobers and Rohan Kanhai (right) and the non-striking batsman for England is Dennis Amiss. The match ended in a draw. (Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Garry Sobers batting for West Indies during the 2nd Test match between England and West Indies at Edgbaston, Birmingham, 10th August 1973. The match ended in a draw.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

West Indies wicketkeeper Deryck Murray attempts unsuccessfully to run out England opening batsman Geoffrey Boycott during the first innings of the 2nd Test match between England and West Indies at Edgbaston, Birmingham, 10th August 1973. The onlooking West Indies fielders are Garry Sobers and Rohan Kanhai (right), the non-striking batsman for England is Dennis Amiss and the umpire is Dickie Bird. The match ended in a draw. (Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

England captain Brian Close and West Indies captain Garfield Sobers tossing up before before the fifth and final test at the Oval, London, 18th August 1966. Sobers won the toss and elected to bat. England later won the Test by an innings and 54 runs.
(Photo by Dennis Oulds/Leonard Burt/Roger Jackson/Central Press/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

Garry Sobers batting for West Indies during the 2nd Test match between England and West Indies at Edgbaston, Birmingham, 10th August 1973. The England wicketkeeper is Alan Knott and the fielder is Frank Hayes. The match ended in a draw.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)



Garry Sobers bowling for the West Indies during the 2nd Test match between England and West Indies at Edgbaston, Birmingham, 13th August 1973. The non-striking batsman for England is Keith Fletcher and the umpire is Arthur Fagg. The match ended in a draw.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

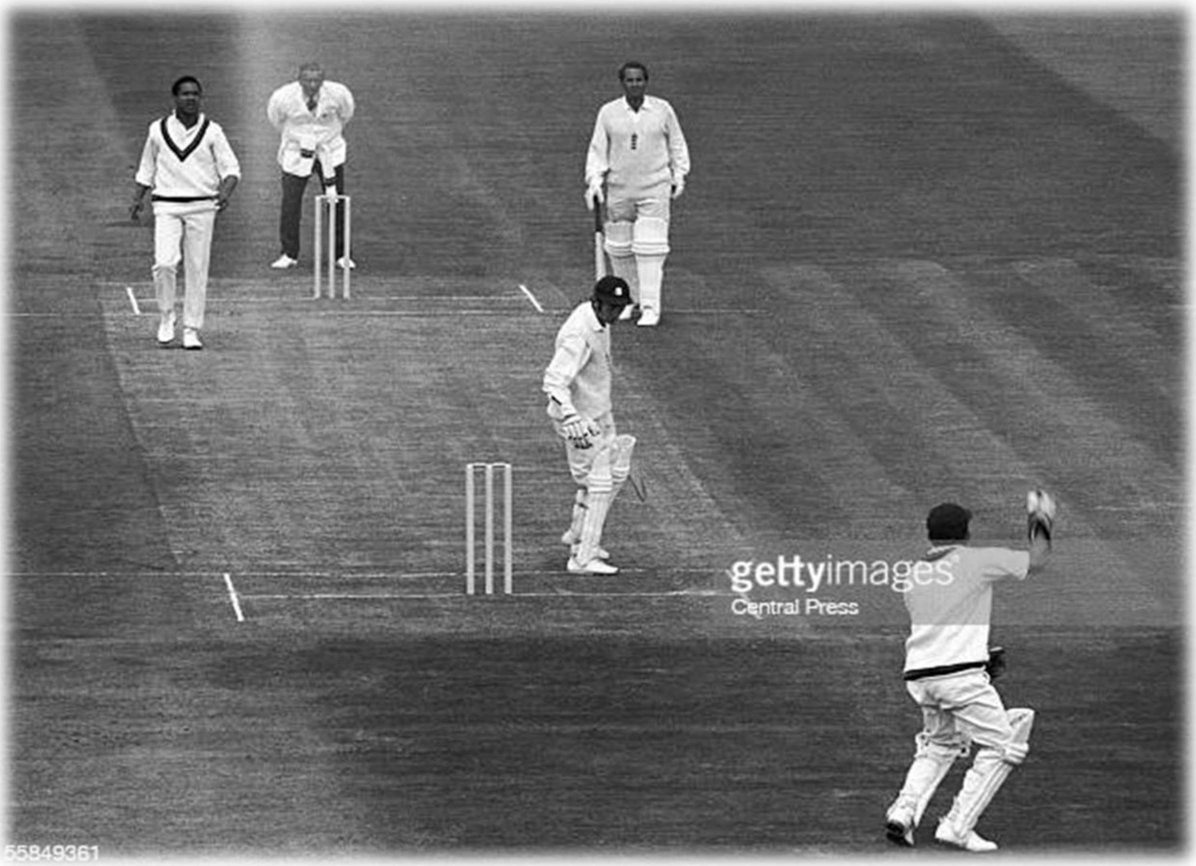
The Vic Lewis Cricket Team during a charity match at Edgbaston, Birmingham, circa 1980. Vic Lewis (centre, front row), a bandleader and showbiz agent, formed his cricket club in 1957 and raised more than £3 million for charity before the club disbanded in 1984. Included in this team are (back row, from second left) actors John Alderton, Julian Holloway and (fifth left) Robert Powell, Michael Parkinson (fourth left), West Indies cricketers Keith Boyce (back row, fifth right) and Sir Garfield Sobers (front row, second left) and England cricketer Micky Stewart (front row, far right).
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Former West Indies cricketer Sir Garfield Sobers during a round of golf with Peter Alliss at Steenberg Golf Club, Cape Town, South Africa, in 1996.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

West Indies team manager Jeffrey Stollmeyer with Wes Hall and Garry Sobers at a reception for the West Indies team at the start of the West Indies tour of England, circa April 1966.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Gary Sobers, captain of the Rest Of The World team, leads his England counterpart Ray Illingworth though a crowd of supporters and off the field after the Rest Of The World's victory by four wickets in the fifth and last test at the Oval, London,18th August 1970. Rest Of The World team won the series and the Guinness Trophy 4-1.
(Photo by Central Press/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

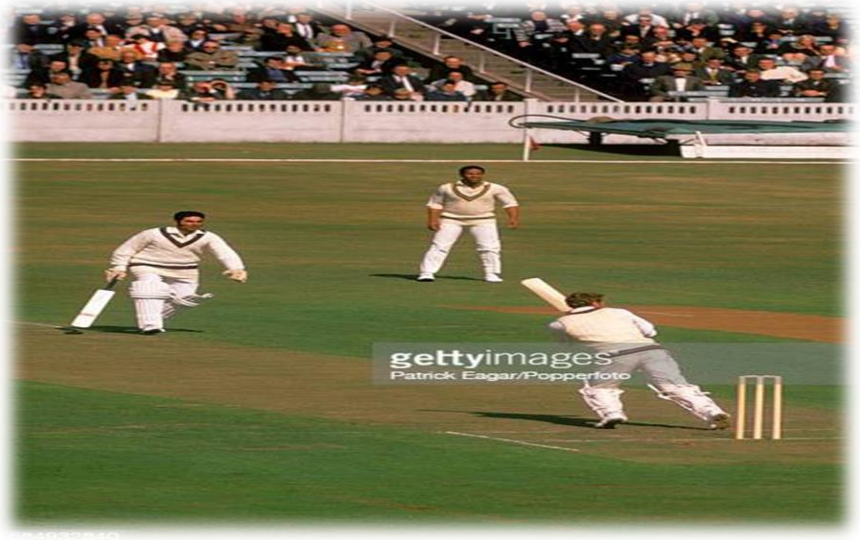
arah Raphael painting the official MCC portrait of Sir Garry Sobers during the 2nd Test match between England and Pakistan at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 18th June 1992.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)



Keith Fletcher is caught by Murray, bowled by the West Indies' Gary Sobers during England's first innings in the third test at Edgbaston, 16th July 1970.
(Photo by Dennis Oulds & Leonard Burt/Central Press/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

Ray Illingworth is bowled by Gary Sobers for 97 in the second test against
the Rest of the World at Trent Bridge, 3rd July 1970.
(Photo by Dennis Oulds & Leonard Burt/Central Press/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

Former England players Denis Compton (far left) and Ted Dexter watching a horse race with former West indies player Garry Sobers on a portable television in the press box during the 2nd Test match between England and West Indies at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 17th June 1976.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)



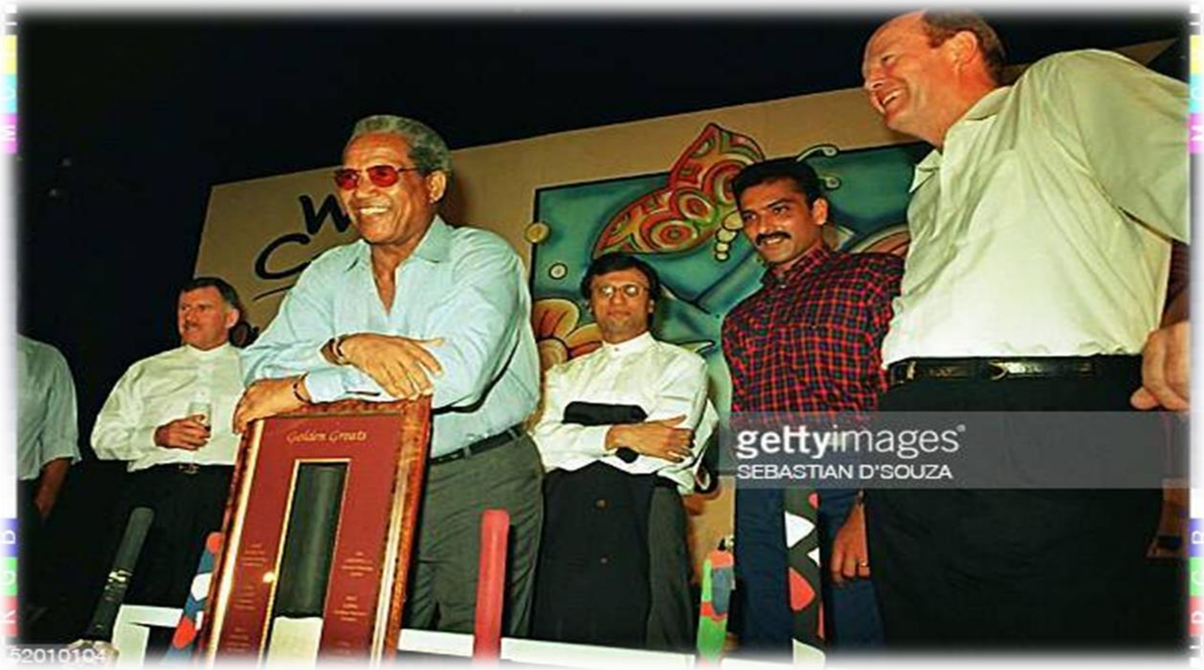
David Lloyd batting for Lancashire during the John Player League match between Lancashire and Nottinghamshire at Old Trafford, Manchester, 28th June 1970. Farokh Engineer is the Lancashire batsman backing up and Garfield Sobers is fielding for Nottinghamshire.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Garry Sobers batting for Nottinghamshire during the John Player League match between Lancashire and Nottinghamshire at Old Trafford, Manchester, 28th June 1970.
The wicketkeeper for Lancashire is Farokh Engineer.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

All ten West Indies fielders crowd around the bat as Bernard Julien of West Indies bowls to Derek Underwood of England during the 3rd Test match between England and West Indies at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 27th August 1973. The non-striking batsman for England is Keith Fletcher and the West Indies fielders are (from left) Alvin Kallicharran (leg gully), Roy Fredericks (short leg), Vanburn Holder (leg slip), Deryck Murray (wicketkeeper), Rohan Kanhai (1st slip), Garry Sobers (2nd slip), Lance Gibbs (silly point), Keith Boyce (3rd slip), Maurice Foster and Clive Lloyd.
West Indies won the match by an innings and 226 runs.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

England cricket captain Colin Cowdrey (left) and his West Indies counterpart Gary Sobers (right) meeting the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Eric Williams,
at a cocktail party at the Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 18th 1968.
(Photo by Central Press/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

The captain of the Rest of the World XI, Garry Sobers, (right) leading his team onto the field at Hove during the match between Sussex and the Rest of the World XI,
30th August 1967. The match ended in a draw.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)



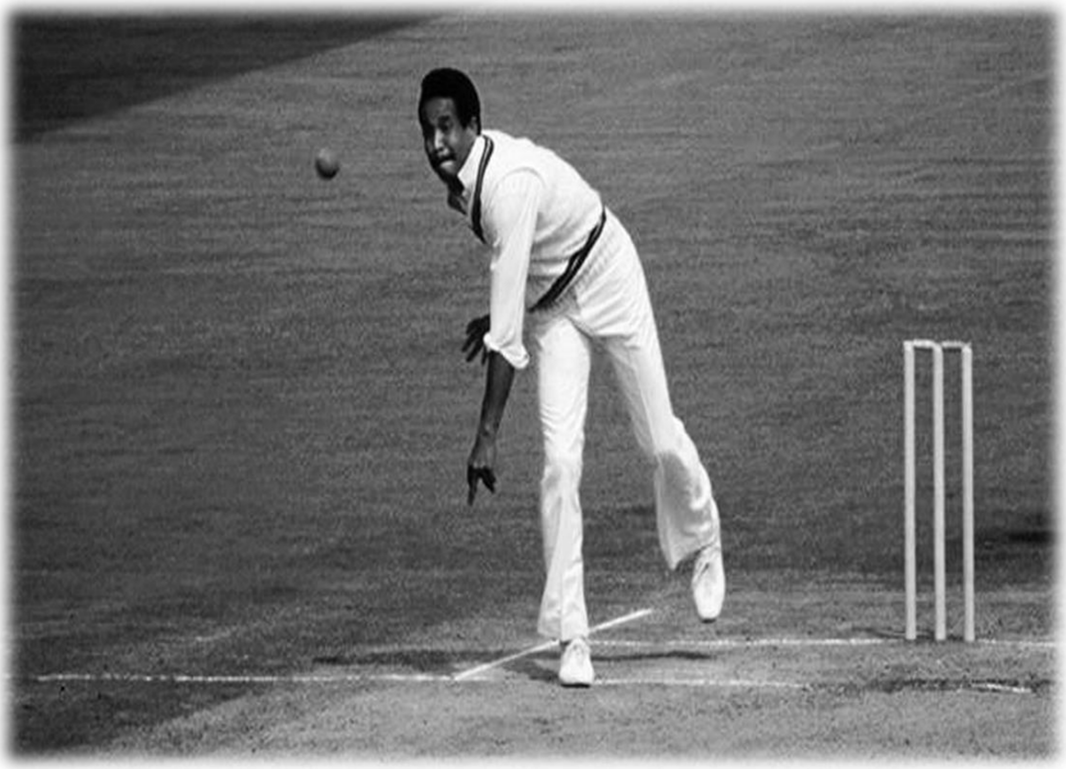

BOMBAY, INDIA - MAY 17: Cricketing greats Ian Chappell (far left), Sir Gary Sobers (leaning on placque),Asif Iqbal (centre back),Ravi Shastri (2nd right) and Tony Greig at a cricket memorabila auction in a hotel in south Bombay on 16 May. The proceeds of the auction, which fetched US$1857 for the memorabilia and US$3571 for a signed bat, went to the Akanksha foundation
which works for the street and slum children in Bombay.
(Photo credit should read SEBASTIAN D"SOUZA/AFP via Getty Images)

Play hard, party harder: Sobers joins the Australians for drinks in the dressing room.

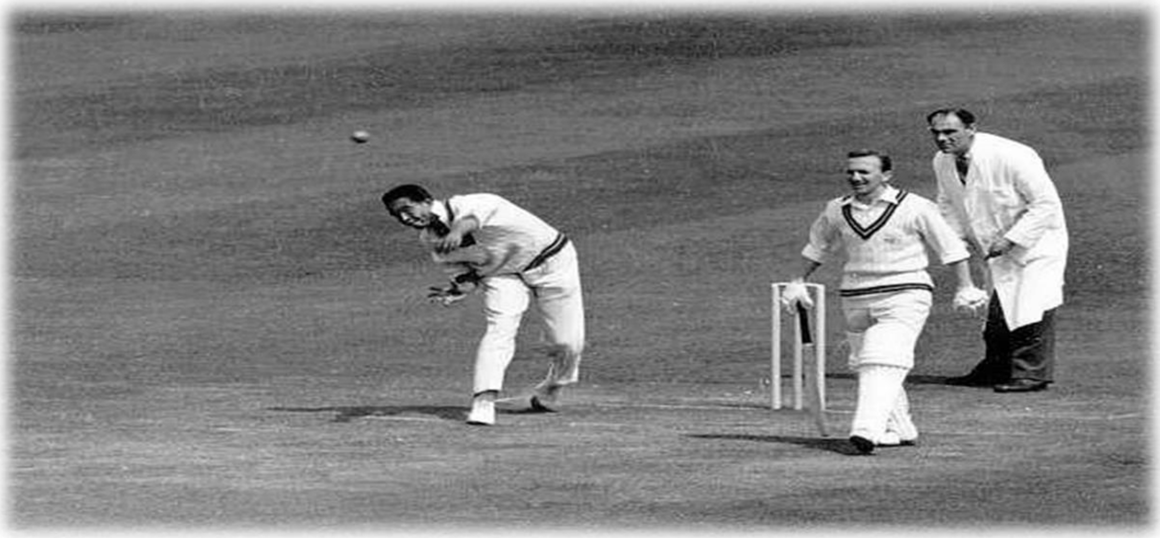
Garfield Sobers, also known as Gary, seated behind the Wisden Trophy
during a press reception at the Waldorf Hotel, 1966.
(Photo by Douglas Miller/Keystone/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

Bob Barber of England and Warwickshire batting for the Duke of Norfolk's XI during the Tour match against West Indies at Arundel, England, 26th April 1969. West Indies captain Garry Sobers fields at slip with the wicketkeeper Michael Findlay.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

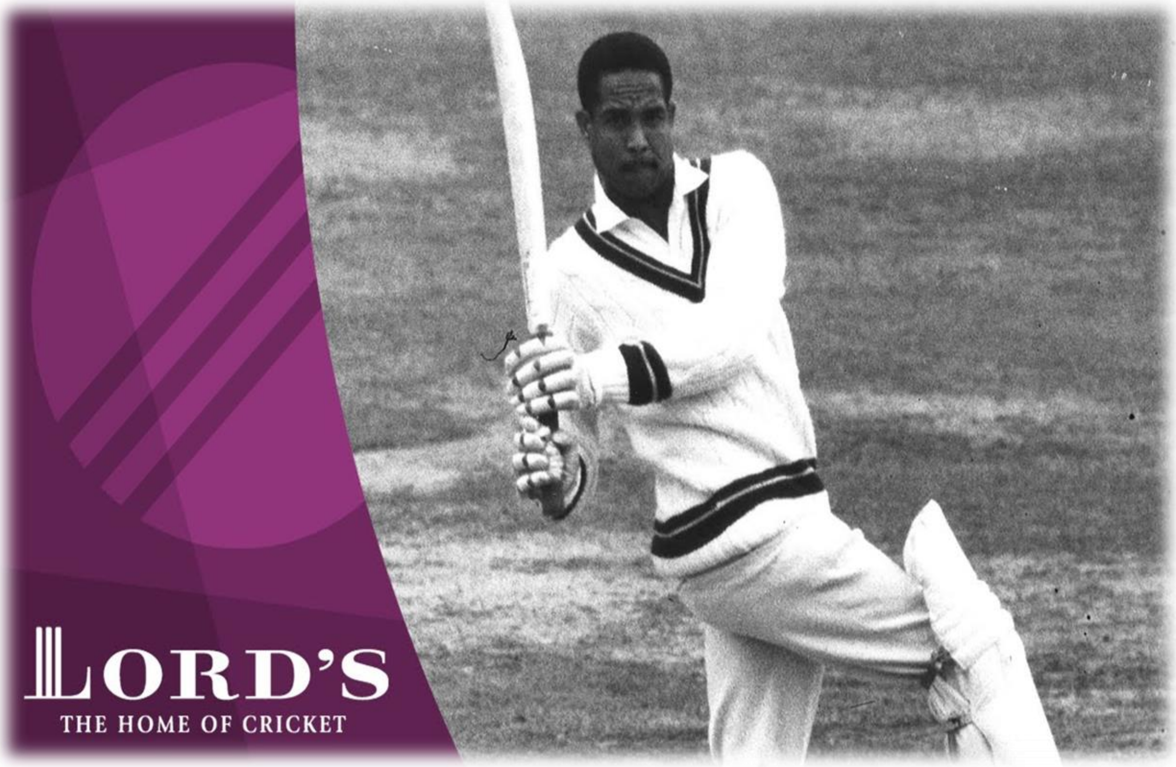
Garry Sobers congratulates Syed Abid Ali and Sunil Gavaskar,
West Indies v India, 2nd Test, Port-of-Spain, 1970



Rare Gary Sobers unbelievable Chinaman delivery in 1966



Garry Sobers makes his debut against England at Kingston




Garry Sobers relives his Lord's Honours Board success.
Sir Garfield Sobers was placed on the Lord's Honours Board four times during his career. To mark his 80th birthday, Sir Garfield recounts his performances.

Wife, Sobers & Son

West Indies cricket captain Garry Sobers with his wife.
His wife is Prudence Kirby (1969 - 1985) ( divorced) ( 3 children)

Historic Cricket Pictures on Twitter: "Garry Sobers with Indian film actress Anju Mahendru at her parents' Mumbai home in January 1967. They were briefly engaged after they met during West Indies' tour of India."

Sir Garfield Sobers and Muhammad Ali in the Lords
cricket ground dressing room circa 1966.

When both Garry Sobers and Ajit Wadekar thought they had won the toss!

The captain of the Rest of the World XI, Garry Sobers, (right)
leading his team onto the field at Hove during the match between Sussex and
the Rest of the World XI, 30th August 1967. The match ended in a draw.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Clive Lloyd of the West Indies has been struck by the ball
during the 2nd Test match between England and the West Indies at Edgbaston
in Birmingham, 11th August 1973. Left-right: Keith Boyce,
Clive Lloyd, Garry Sobers and Rohan Kanhai.
(Photo by Ed Lacey/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

27th August 1973: West Indian cricketer Gary Sobers catches
out England's Luckhurst in the Third Test at Lord's.
(Photo by Central Press/Getty Images)

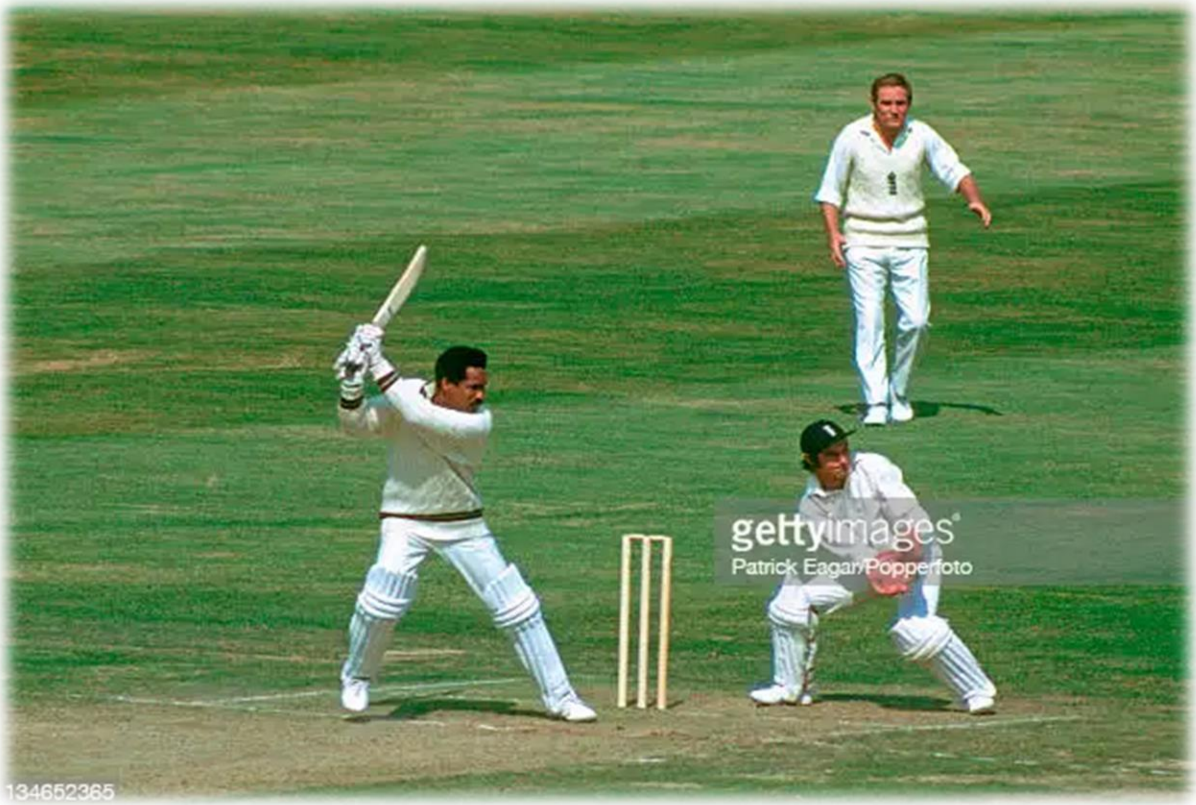
15th July 1969: West Indian cricket captain Gary Sobers
congratulates the England captain, Ray Illingworth, after England won the final
test and the series against the West Indies at Headingley.
(Photo by Central Press/Getty Images)

Gary Sobers congratulates Rohan Kanhai on his century for the West Indies
against England, circa 1968.
(Photo by Central Press/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

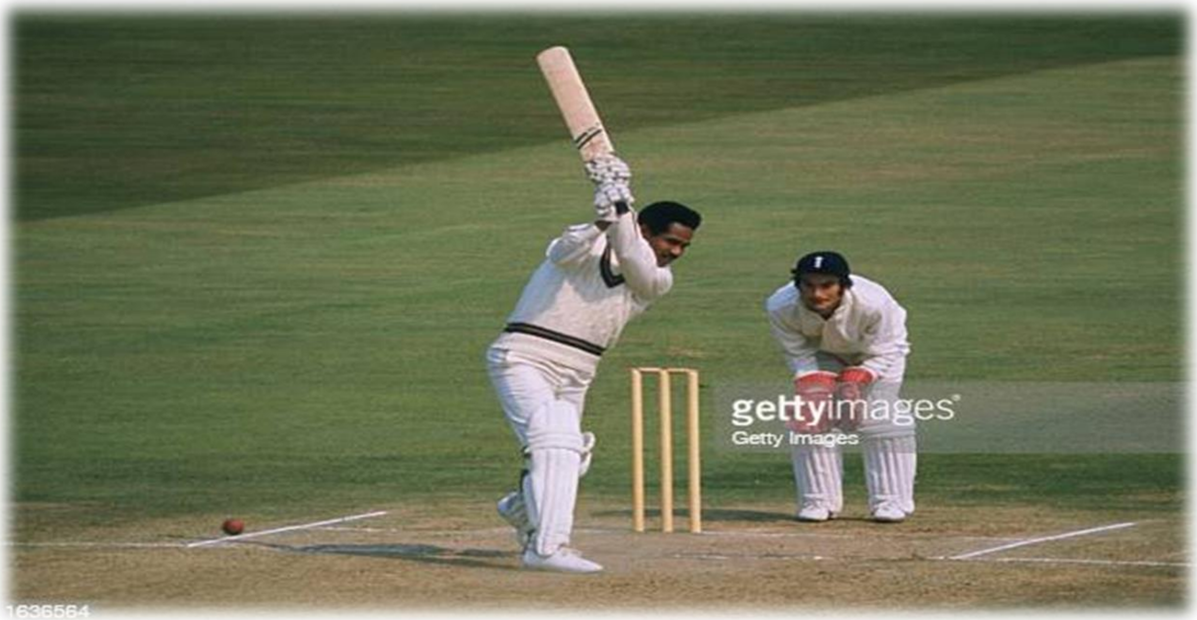
19th August 1966: English batsmen Tom Graveney and John Murray
leaving the pitch at the Oval, London, after setting up an unbroken 8th wicket
partnership record of 164 runs in a test match against the
West Indies. West Indies captain Gary Sobers applauds.
(Photo by Central Press/Getty Images)

27th September 1968: Cricketers Gary Sobers, Fred Trueman,
Colin Milburn and Basil D'Oliveira seen boarding a plane
for Australia to compete in a competition.
(Photo by Keystone/Getty Images)

West Indian cricket captain Gary Sobers (Garfield Sobers) batting during the Third Test at Lord's, 30th August 1973.
(Photo by Evening Standard/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)




Gary Sobers, Alan Knott and Ray Illingworth,
England v West Indies, 3rd Test, Lord's, August 1973.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)




1973: Sir Garfield Sobers of the West Indies bats while Alan Knott of England waits behind the wicket during a match at the Kennington Oval in London.

22 Jul 1998: Sir Garfield Sobers opens the new Radcliffe Road Stand before the Fourth Test match between England and South Africa at Trent Bridge in Nottingham, England.

A combined team photograph of the West Indies and Pakistan teams during Pakistan's tour of the West Indies in January 1958.
Identified, seat, front row, far right, is Garry Sobers.
(Photo by Paul Popper/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

Garry Sobers of West Indies waves to the crowd from the dressing room balcony after West Indies won the 3rd Test match between England and West Indies by an innings and 226 runs at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 27th August 1973. Also pictured are West Indies players Roy Fredericks and Deryck Murray. West Indies' two Test victories meant that they won the Wisden Trophy.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

Graham Johnson of Kent is presented with his man-of-the-match award by former West Indies and Nottinghamshire allrounder Garry Sobers during the presentation ceremony following the Benson and Hedges Cup Final between Kent and Worcestershire at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 17th July 1976. Johnson top-scored in Kent's innings with 78, and took four catches in Worcestershire's innings as Kent won the match by 43 runs.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

27 APR 1968: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FIELDERS D. MURRAY, GARY SOBERS, N. HILL IN CROUCHED POSITION DURING THE GILLETTE CUP TIE MATCH AGAINST LANCASHIRE AT TRENT BRIDGE.

West Indies supporters celebrate on the outfield in front of the Grandstand after England batsman Geoffrey Boycott (far left) was dismissed for 4 runs, caught by West Indies captain Rohan Kanhai (5th left) off the bowling of Vanburn Holder (3rd right), during the 3rd Test match between England and West Indies at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 24th August 1973. The other West Indies players are (from 2nd left) Roy Fredericks, wicketkeeper Deryck Murray, Garry Sobers, Keith Boyce, Bernard Julien, Alvin Kallicharran, Clive Lloyd and Lance Gibbs. West Indies won the match by an innings and 226 runs. (Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

Garry Sobers of West Indies (far left) is congratulated by teammate Keith Boyce after taking the catch to dismiss England captain Ray Illingworth (not in picture) for a first-ball duck as West Indies supporters run on to celebrate during the 3rd Test match between England and West Indies at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 25th August 1973. The other West Indies players are wicketkeeper Deryck Murray (hidden) and Clive Lloyd; the umpire is Dickie Bird. West Indies won the match by an innings and 226 runs.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

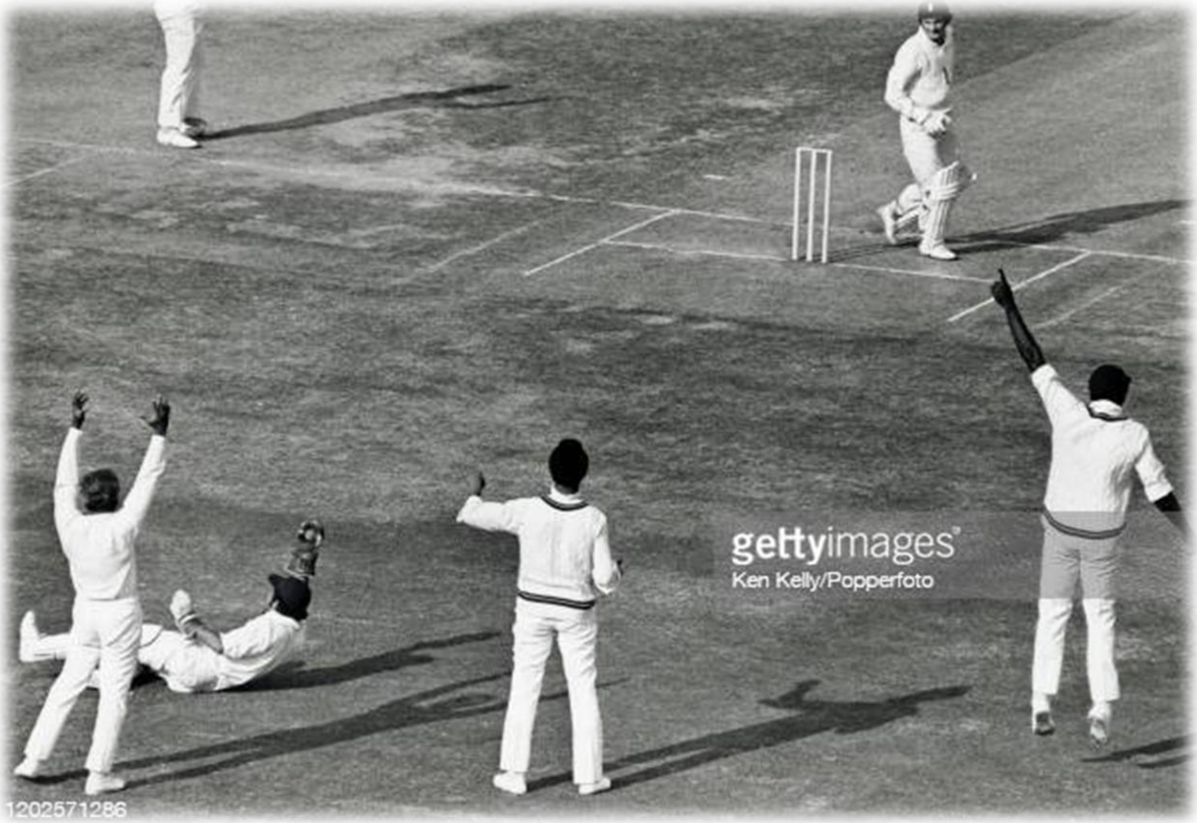
England batsman Frank Hayes driving during his innings of 29 runs in the 2nd Test match between England and West Indies at Edgbaston, Birmingham, 11th August 1973. The West Indies fielders are wicketkeeper Deryck Murray and Garry Sobers. The match ended in a draw. (Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

England batsman Alan Knott is out LBW for 5 runs to Keith Boyce of West Indies during the 1st Test match between England and West Indies at The Oval, London, 31st July 1973. The fielders for West Indies are (from left) Clive Lloyd, Garry Sobers, Rohan Kanhai and wicketkeeper Deryck Murray; the non-striking batsman for England is Frank Hayes and the umpire is Tom Spencer. West Indies won the match by 158 runs.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

West Indies batsman Garry Sobers and England bowler Geoff Arnold reacting to a near miss during the 1st Test match between England and West Indies at The Oval, London, 27th July 1973. The fielders for England are Frank Hayes (left) and wicketkeeper Alan Knott. West Indies won the match by 158 runs.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

A composite image featuring Garry Sobers of West Indies as he takes the catch to dismiss Ray Illingworth of England for a first-ball duck (top photo) before being congratulated (bottom photo) by teammates Keith Boyce (far right) and wicketkeeper Deryck Murray (3rd right) during the 3rd Test match between England and West Indies at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 25th August 1973. The other West Indies players are Clive Lloyd (far left, top photo and centre, bottom photo), bowler Lance Gibbs (bottom photo, far left) and Rohan Kanhai (bottom photo, 3rd left). West Indies won the match by an innings and 226 runs. (Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

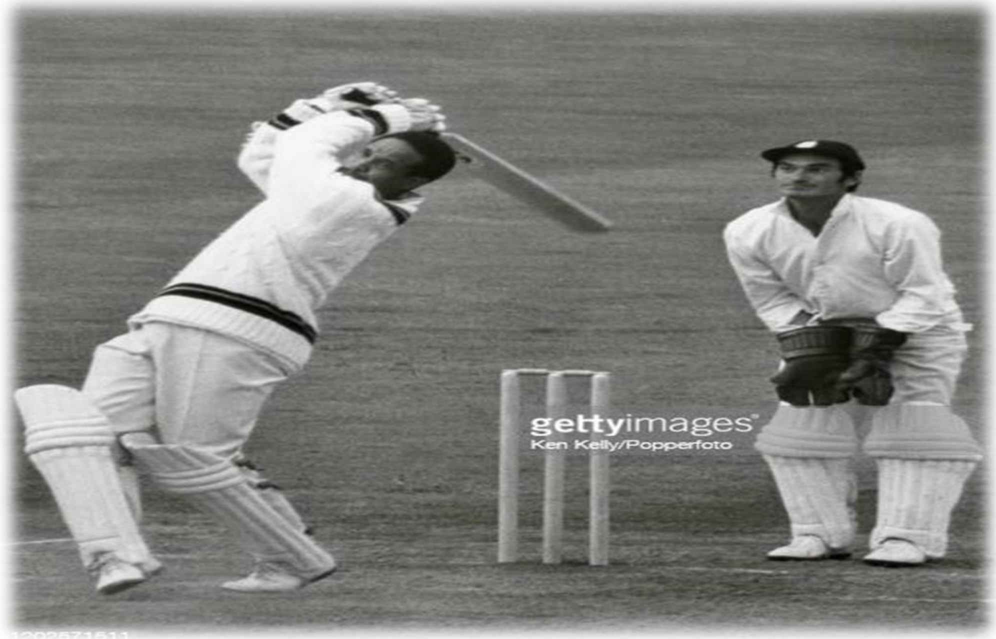
Ray Illingworth of England walks off after being caught for a first-ball duck by Garry Sobers of West Indies (2nd right) off the bowling of Lance Gibbs (far left) during the 3rd Test match between England and West Indies at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 25th August 1973. The other West Indies players are Rohan Kanhai (3rd left), Clive Lloyd (centre), wicketkeeper Deryck Murray and Keith Boyce (far right).
West Indies won the match by an innings and 226 runs.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images)




Ian Knott of England is caught for 21 runs by West Indies wicketkeeper Deryck Murray during the 3rd Test match between England and West Indies at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 25th August 1973. The other West Indies fielders pictured are (from bottom left) Rohan Kanhai, Garry Sobers and Clive Lloyd. West Indies won the match by an innings and 226 runs.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

Fred Titmus of England is caught for 27 runs by Charlie Griffith of West Indies off the bowling of Wes Hall to close England's first innings of the 3rd Test match between England and West Indies at Edgbaston, Birmingham, 5th July 1963. The other West Indies fielders are (from top left) Conrad Hunte, Garry Sobers, Rohan Kanhai and wicketkeeper Deryck Murray; the not-out batsman for England is Derek Shackleton. England won the match by 217 runs.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

England opening batsman Brian Luckhurst edges the ball past Garry Sobers (West Indies) fielding at third slip for Rest of the World during the five-day match between England and Rest of the World XI at Edgbaston, Birmingham, 18th July 1970. The non-striking batsman for England is John Edrich and the other fielders for Rest of the World are (from top left) Barry Richards (South Africa), wicketkeeper Deryck Murray (West Indies), Eddie Barlow (South Africa) and Graeme Pollock (South Africa). Rest of the World XI won the match by 5 wickets.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images)




Garry Sobers of West Indies batting during his innings of 150 in the 3rd Test match between England and West Indies at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 24th August 1973. The wicketkeeper for England is Alan Knott. West Indies won the match by an innings and 226 runs. (Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - NOVEMBER 30: Former cricketer Garfield Sobers and Prince Charles, Prince of Wales interact at the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony at Heroes Square on November 30, 2021 in Bridgetown, Barbados. The Prince of Wales arrived in the country ahead of its transition to a republic within the Commonwealth. This week, it formally removes Queen Elizabeth as its head of state and the current governor-general, Dame Sandra Mason, will be sworn in as president.
(Photo by Toby Melville - Pool/Getty Images)

West Indies wicketkeeper Deryck Murray and the slip fielders (from left) Clive Lloyd, Garry Sobers and Rohan Kanhai crouch behind the wicket during the 2nd Test match between England and West Indies at Edgbaston, Birmingham, 10th August 1973. The match ended in a draw. (Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - MARCH 19: Prince Charles, Prince of Wales speaks with West Indies' cricket legend Garfield Sobers during a reception at the Prime Minister's residence during their Caribbean tour on March 19, 2019 in Bridgetown, Barbados. The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall are visiting a number countries as part of their Caribbean Tour, including a historic visit to Cuba.
(Photo by Phil Noble - Pool/Getty Images)

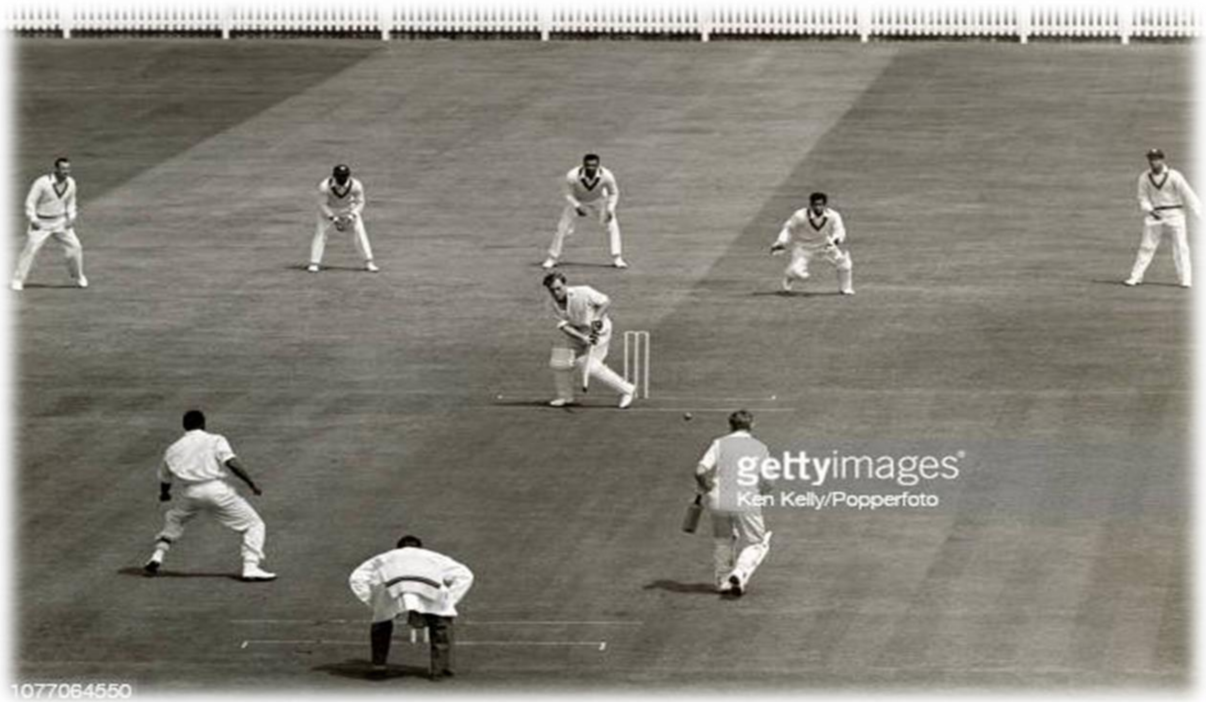
The West Indies touring party at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 4th July 1973.
Pictured are (back row, left to right): L Pink (physiotherapist), Alvin Kallicharran, Inshan Ali, Bernard Julien, Keith Boyce, Vanburn Holder, Grayson Shillingford, Ron Headley, Maurice Foster, Elquemedo Willett and David Murray; (front row): Esmond Kentish (manager), Deryck Murray, Clive Lloyd, Garry Sobers, Rohan Kanhai, Lance Gibbs, Roy Fredericks and Glendon Gibbs (assistant manager).
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - FEBRUARY 17: England captain Eoin Morgan shakes hands with Sir Garfield Sobers during a presentation in the interval of the One Day Tour Match between England and The University of West Indies Vice Chancellor's XI at Three Ws Oval on February 17, 2019 in Bridgetown, Barbados.
(Photo by Gareth Copley/Getty Images,)

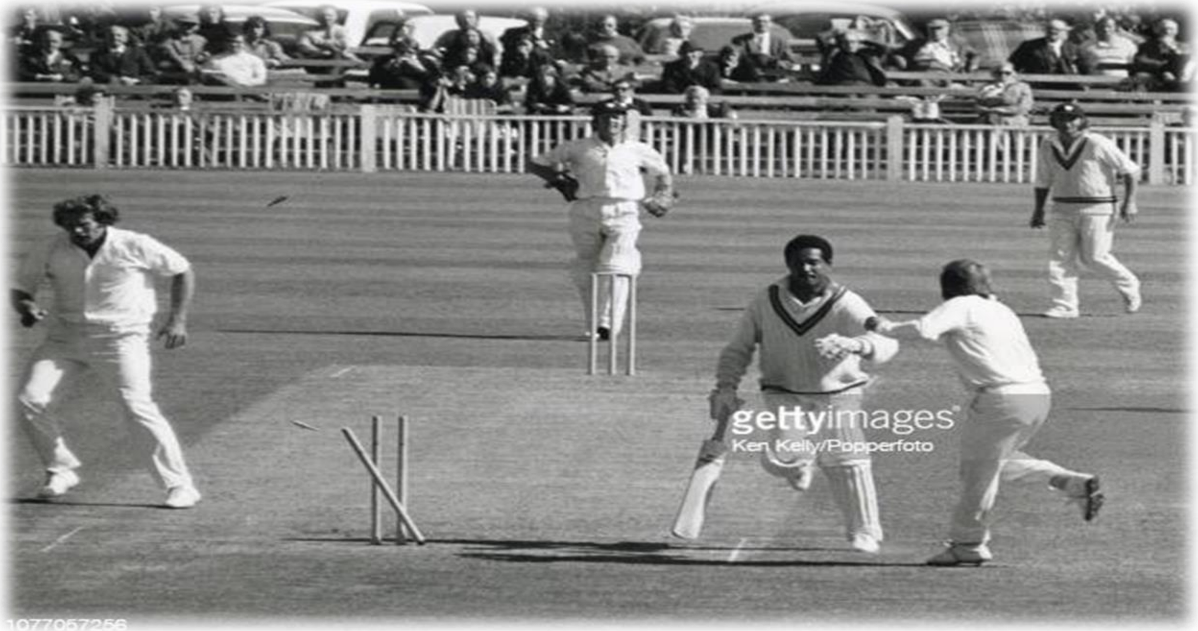
West Indies cricket team at Worcester, 1st May 1963. Back row (left-right): Joe Solomon, Seymour Nurse, Joey Carew, Charlie Griffith, Easton McMorris, David Allan, Basil Butcher. Front row: Alf Valentine, Conrad Hunte, Frank Worrall, Garfield Sobers, Wes Hall. (Photo by Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - JANUARY 19: Sir Garfield Sobers talks West Indies captain Jason Holder and Shai Hope during net practice at Kensington Oval on January 19, 2019 in Bridgetown, Barbados. (Photo by Shaun Botterill/Getty Images)

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - JANUARY 23 : Sir Garfield Sobers applauds as John Campbell receives his first test cap before the first Test match between England and the West Indies at Kensington Oval on January 23, 2019 in Bridgetown, Barbados.
(Photo by Philip Brown/Popperfoto via Getty Images)




England batsman Doug Insole plays a delivery from West Indies bowler Roy Gilchrist during the 1st Test match between England and West Indies at Edgbaston, Birmingham, 30th May 1957. The non-striking batsman for England is Peter Richardson and the West Indies fielders are (from left): John Goddard, Everton Weekes, Clyde Walcott, wicketkeeper Rohan Kanhai and Test debutant Garry Sobers. The umpire is Charlie Elliott. It was the fifth Test match to be played at Edgbaston, and the first since 1929.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)




Nottinghamshire captain Garry Sobers just makes his ground to avoid being run out by Worcestershire's Ted Hemsley (right) during the Benson and Hedges Cup Quarter Final between Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire at New Road, Worcester, 13th June 1973. Also pictured are Worcestershire's Jim Cumbes (left), wicketkeeper Rodney Cass and Alan Ormrod. Worcestershire won the match by 89 runs.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Rest of the World's Gary Sobers (l) batting
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Garfield Sobers hooks a ball from Fred Trueman for 4.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

West Indian cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers (2R) speaks with West Indian cricketers during a practice session at the P. Sara Oval Cricket Stadium in Colombo on October 21, 2015, ahead of a second Test match against Sri Lanka on October 22.
(Photo credit should read Ishara S.KODIKARA/AFP via Getty Images)

West Indian cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers (2R) speaks with captain
Jason Holder (R) and teammates during a practice session at the P. Sara Oval Cricket Stadium in
Colombo on October 21, 2015, ahead of a second
Test match against Sri Lanka on October 22.
(Photo credit should read Ishara S.KODIKARA/AFP via Getty Images)

West Indies cricket chairman of selectors, Clive Lloyd (R) speaks with West Indian cricket
legend Sir Garfield Sobers during a West Indies practice session at the P. Sara Oval Cricket
Stadium in Colombo on October 21, 2015, ahead of the second Test
match against Sri Lanka on October 22.
(Photo credit should read Ishara S.KODIKARA/AFP via Getty Images)

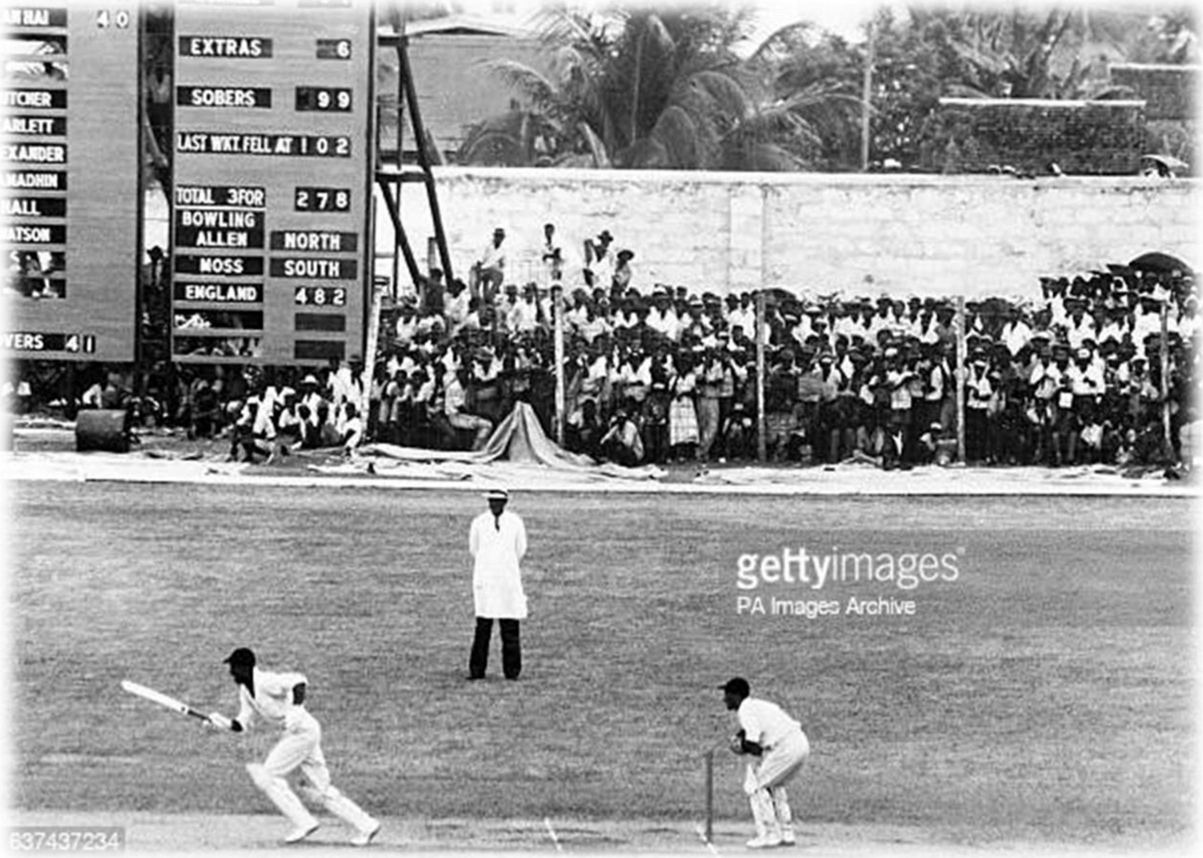
US Billionaire Sir Allen Stanford (R) is pictured with former cricketer Sir Garfield Sobers at Lords cricket ground in London, on June 11, 2008. England's cricketers will take part in some of the richest matches in sport after it was announced Wednesday they would be playing a series of 20 million dollar Twenty20 clashes in the Caribbean. The matches are being bankrolled by Texan billionaire Allen Stanford, the man behind the domestic Twenty20 tournament in the West Indies. (Photo credit should read MAX NASH/AFP via Getty Images)

West Indian cricket legend Garfield Sobers (L) and Sri Lankan Cricket Chairman Sidath Wettimuny pose during a welcome ceremony in Colombo on October 20, 2015. Sobers is in Sri Lanka at the invitation of The Sri Lankan Cricket Board to see the West Indies v Sri Lanka cricket tour.
The two Test match series is being played for the Sobers/Tissera Trophy as a tribute to the former West Indies all-rounder and captain and Michael Tissera, the former Sri Lanka captain.
(Photo credit should read LAKRUWAN WANNIARACHCHI/AFP via Getty Images)

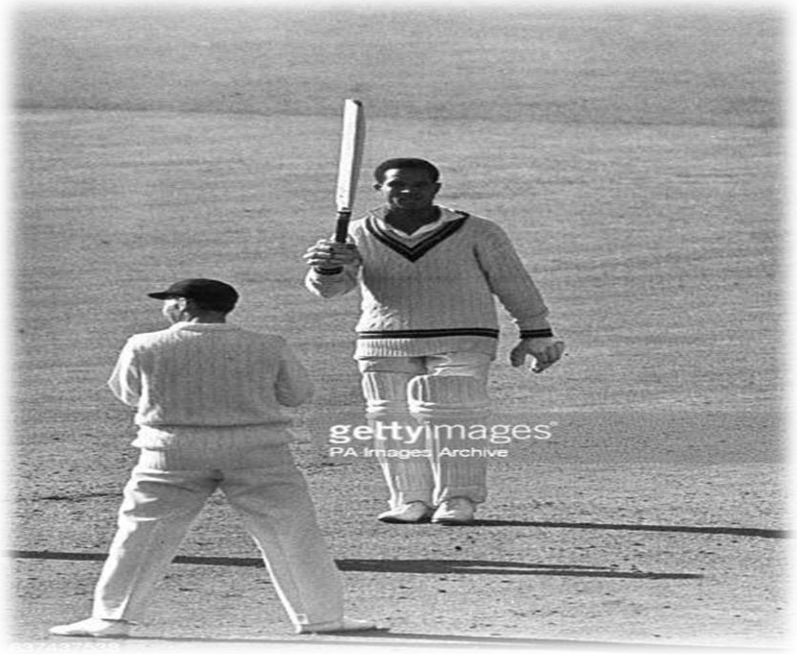
Sir Garfield Sobers (L) and Rihanna Fenty (R) the only two living Barbados National Heroes during the National Honors ceremony and Independence Day Parade at Golden Square Freedom Park in Bridgetown, Barbados, on November 30, 2021.
(Photo by Randy Brooks / AFP) (Photo by RANDY BROOKS/AFP via Getty Images)

Gary Sobers Dismissed
Former West Indies cricket captian Sir Garfield Sobers now playing Lancashire League cricket.
(Photo by PA Images via Getty Images)

An enthusiastic West Indian fan runs onto the pitch to lift Gary Sobers off his feet when Sobers had completed his 100 runs. 4th day of the second test at Lords.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)




West Indies' Garfield Sobers (l) takes a single off the last ball
of the day to complete his century
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)




West Indies' Garfield Sobers (r) acknowledges the applause of the crowd after completing his century
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

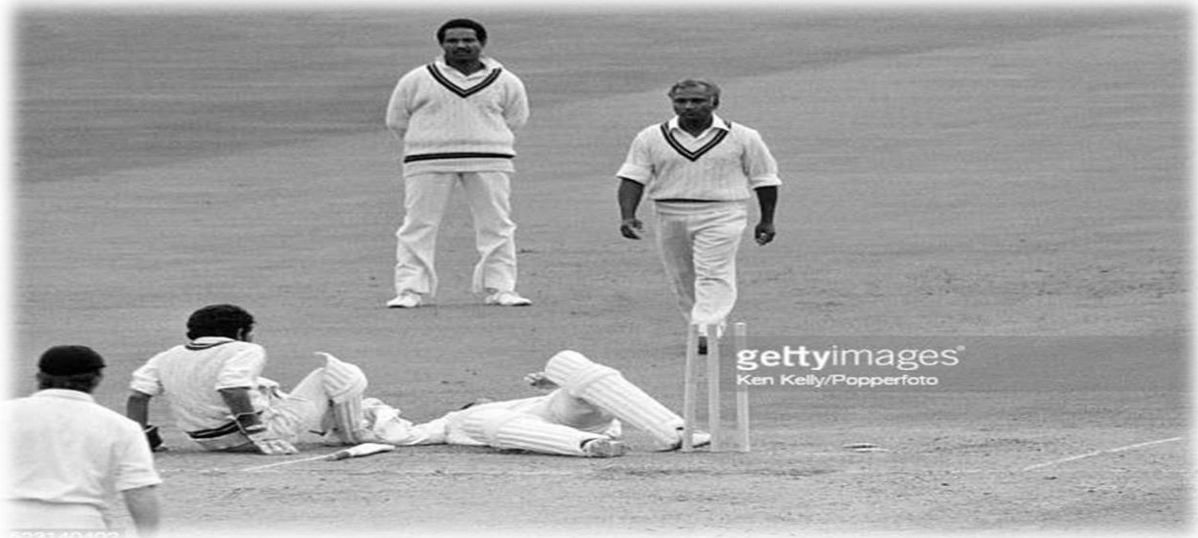
Rest of the World's Garfield Sobers (l) batting
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - APRIL 28: Sir Garfield Sobers presents Glenn McGrath of Australia with the Player of the Series after Australia defeated Sri Lanka during the ICC Cricket World Cup Final between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Kensington Oval on April 28, 2007 in Bridgetown, Barbados.
(Photo by Tom Shaw/Getty Images)

30 Jun 2001: Jimmy Adams of the Sir Garfield Sobers XI hits a huge six during the one day match between the Sir Richard Hadlee XI and the Sir Garfield Sobers XI at Trent Bridge in Nottingham .
Digital Image. Mandatory Credit: Laurence Griffiths/ALLSPORT

Sir Garfield Sobers, former West Indies cricketer, umpires a charity
match between the Lord's Taveners and the Penn Street XI on the Nursery
ground at Lord's cricket ground, London on 27th June 1994.
(Photo by David Munden/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

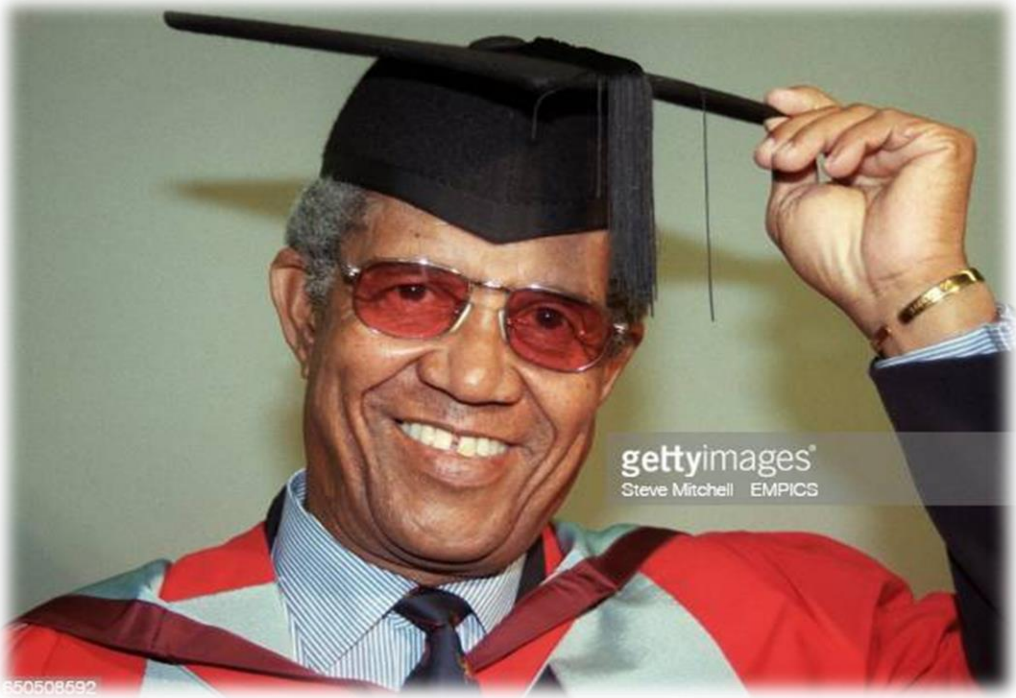
Apr 1990: Portrait of Sir Garfield Sobers of the West Indies on the beach in Barbados.
\(Mandatory Credit: Adrian Murrell/Allsport)




West Indies wicketkeeper Deryck Murray has collided with England opening batsman Geoffrey Boycott in a failed attempt to run him out during the first innings of the 2nd Test match between England and the West Indies at Edgbaston in Birmingham, 10th August 1973. The onlooking West Indies fielders are Garry Sobers and Rohan Kanhai (right). The match ended in a draw. (Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Sylvester Clarke falls across the laps of fellow Barbados cricketers as they line up for a team photo before the friendly match between Barbados Board of Tourism XI and a World XI at The Oval, London, 18th September 1982. Pictured are (back row, left to right): Malcolm Marshall, Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes, Collis King, Albert Padmore, Joel Garner, unknown, and Michael Worrell; (seated, left to right): Vanburn Holder, Wes Hall, Garry Sobers, Charlie Griffith and Seymour Nurse; (front, lying) Sylvester Clarke. (Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

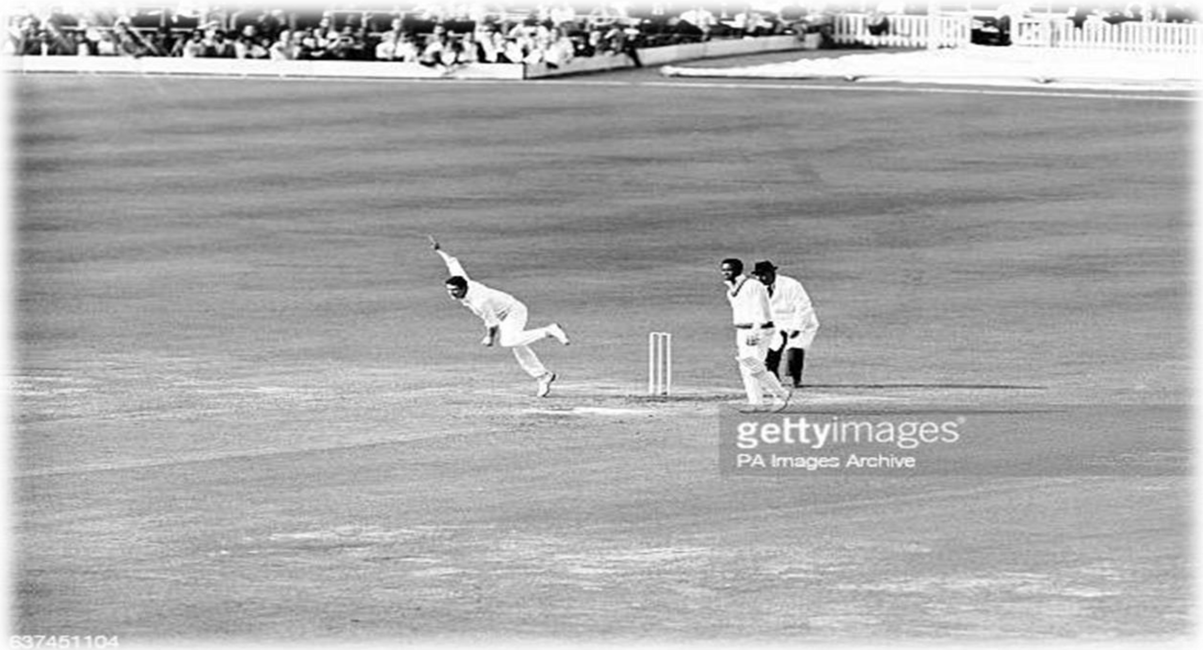
The West Indies team at Arundel prior to the opening match of their Tour of England against the Duke of Norfolk's XI, 27th April 1963. Left-right: Lester King, Easton McMorris, Garfield Sobers, Basil Butcher, Joe Soloman, Lance Gibbs, Deryck Murray, Willie Rodriguez, Joey Carew, Frank Worrell, Seymour Nurse, David Allen.
(Photo by Bill Smith/Popperfoto via Getty Images)




Sir Gary Sobers receives his Honorary Degree of Doctor Of Laws at
The University Of Nottingham
(Photo by Steve Mitchell/EMPICS via Getty Images)

Cricket, 1966, West Indies Touring Team in England, Portrait of legendary West Indian all rounder Gary Sobers wearing a suit during the tour
(Photo by Bob Thomas Sports Photography via Getty Images)

Prince Charles meets the West Indies team ahead of start of play on the 4th day of the 2nd Test at Lord's. Pictured for the West Indies (l-r) Mike Findlay,
Maurice Foster and Garry Sobers (captain).
(Photo by Fowler/Saunders/PA Images via Getty Images)



West Indies' Garfield Sobers (r) looks on as England's Jeff Jones (l) bowls
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

West Indies captain Gary Sobers (r) talks to Queen Elizabeth II (l) before the start of the second day's play at Lord's
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

(L-R) West Indies' Garfield Sobers acknowledges the applause of the crowd as he walks in for tea with teammate Rohan Kanhai
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Sri Lankan cricket captain Angelo Mathews (R) West Indian cricket legend Garfield Sobers (L) and former Sri Lanka cricket captain Michael Tissera (C) hold up the Sobers/Tissera Trophy after Sri Lanka's victory in the Test match series between Sri Lanka and the West Indies at The P. Sara Oval Cricket Stadium in Colombo on October 26, 2015. Sri Lanka defeated the West Indies by 72 runs in the second and final Test in Colombo to sweep the series 2-0.
(Photo credit should read Ishara S.KODIKARA/AFP via Getty Images)

West Indian cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers (R) and Sri Lankan cricket captain Angelo Mathews pose during the first day of their second Test cricket match between Sri Lanka and the West Indies at the P. Sara Oval Cricket Stadium in Colombo on October 22, 2015.
(Photo credit should read Ishara S.KODIKARA/AFP via Getty Images)

The West Indies cricket team prior to their match against Mr TN Pearce's XI at the Scarborough Festival, 7th September 1957. Left-right: Andrew Ganteaume, Everton Weekes, Rohan Kanhai, Alf Valentine, Garfield Sobers, Clyde Walcott, Gerry Alexander, Nyron Asgarali, O'Neil Gordon Smith, Tom Dewdney, Roy Gilchrist. The match ended in a draw.
(Photo by Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Apr 1990: Sir Garfield Sobers of the West Indies in action on the beach in Barbados.
Mandatory Credit: Adrian Murrell/Allsport

Picture shows : Umpire, Ted Wykes, rest of the world players Intikha Alan, Garry Sobers and umpire Tom Brooks toasting to a successful four ahead.Reception for the rest of world cricket team held at the Cricket club, city. November 10, 1971.
(Photo by Pearce/Fairfax Media via Getty Images).

30 Jun 2001: Shaun Pollock of the Sir Richard Hadlee XI fires in a delivery during the the one day match between the Sir Richard Hadlee XI and the Sir Garfield Sobers XI at Trent Bridge in Nottingham.
Digital Image. Mandatory Credit: Laurence Griffiths/ALLSPORT

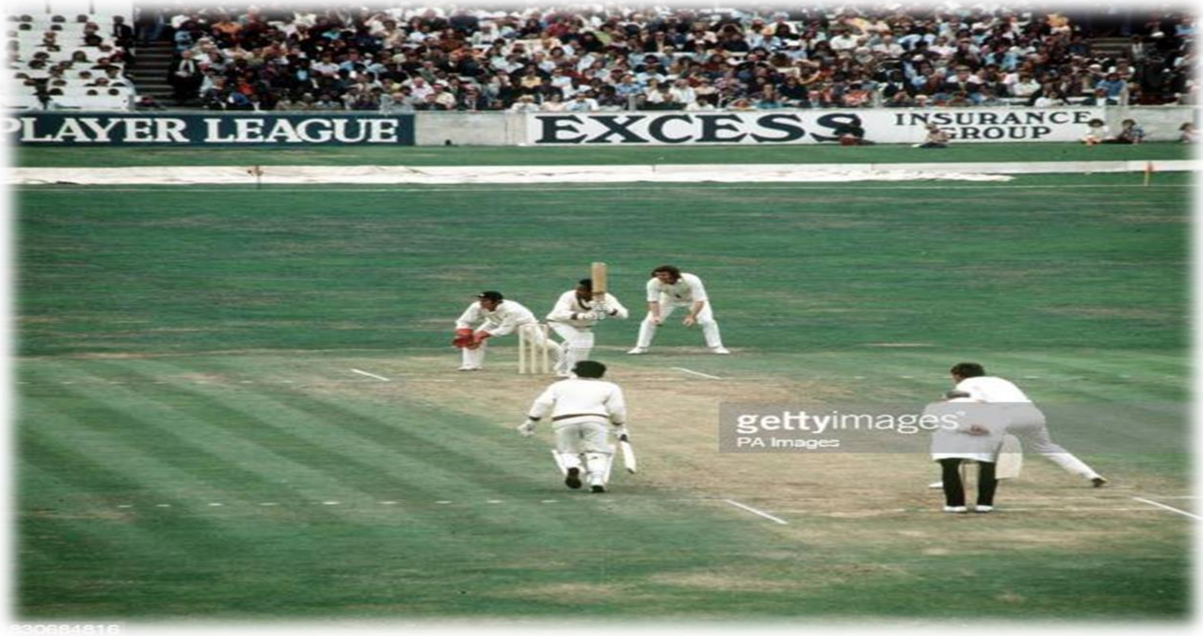
30 Jun 2001: Sir Garfield Sobers and Sir Richard Hadlee during the the one day match between the Sir Richard Hadlee XI and the Sir Garfield Sobers XI at Trent Bridge in Nottingham.
Digital Image. Mandatory Credit: Laurence Griffiths/ALLSPORT

A dramatic collision between Geoff Boycott(on ground right) and Deryck Murray, the West Indian wicket-keeper, anxiously watched by Gary Sobers and (left) and Khanai (standing) during second day of the second Test.
(Photo by PA Images via Getty Images)

Captain Gary Sobers (Barbados), and Lance Gibbs (Guyana) vice-Captain take to the field
(Photo by PA Images via Getty Images)

L-R) Paul Boateng MP and legendary West Indian cricket player Sir Garfield Sobers at the launch of the new Centre for Caribbean Medicine at the St Thomas Hospital in London.
(Photo by Tim Whitby - PA Images/PA Images via Getty Images)

West Indian batsmen Brian Lara is congratulated by Sir Garfield Sobers after beating his record of 365 runs at the recreation ground, St Johns, Antigua.
(Photo by Rebecca Naden - PA Images/PA Images via Getty Images)




West Indies captain Gary Sobers hits a delivery from England's Ray Illingworth during their first test match.
(Photo by PA Images via Getty Images)

Cricket legends Sir Richard Hadlee and Sir Garfield Sobers take to the field at Trent Bridge, where they were preparing for the 'Superkings of Cricket' limited over match on 30/6/01. The teams include the most prolific bowlers in Test and One-Day cricket. * Courtney Walsh and Wasim Akram respectively, have been gathered to raise funds to revamp and exten

SIR GARFIELD SOBERS RECEIVES A PLAQUE FROM TREVOR BAILEY, THE FORMER ENGLAND FAST BOWLER IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSERARY OF HIS ENTRY INTO TEST CRICKET.
(Photo by Rebecca Naden - PA Images/PA Images via Getty Images)

Basil D'Oliveira, the Cape born Worcestershire cricketer whose inclusion in the proposed South African MCC tour caused an international cricket sensation and the cancellation of the tour, is seen here at Heathrow Airport, London, with other cricketers when they left to take part in the Doubles Wicket contest in Australia. (l-r): Yorkshire's Freddie Trueman, Basil D'Oliviera, Nottinghamshire's Gary Sobers and Northamptonshire's Colin Milburn.
(Photo by PA Images via Getty Images)

Former England cricketer Fred Trueman shares some champagne with former West Indies cricketer Garry Sobers after a friendly match between Old England XI and Old World XI at The Oval, London, 19th September 1982. Trueman, playing for Old England XI, bowled Sobers of Old World XI for 31 runs.
(Photo by Patrick Eagar/Popperfoto via Getty Images)

Bridgetown, BARBADOS: A general view showing the Garfield Sobers Pavilion (L) while Ireland plays Australia during the Super-Eight ICC World Cup cricket match at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados 13 April 2007. The venue is to host the World Cup Final game.
(Photo credit should read ADRIAN DENNIS/AFP via Getty Images)

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - APRIL 19: Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir Everton Weekes, Kathryn Ward (daughter of Denis Atkinson) and Denis Depeiaza (son of Clairmonte Depeiaza) receive awards as West Indies cricket record holders during the ICC Cricket World Cup Super Eights match between West Indies and Bangladesh at the Kensington Oval on April 19, 2007 in Bridgetown, Barbados.
(Photo by Clive Mason/Getty Images)

Garfield Sobers, notching up West Indies runs at Lord's, hits a four off Tony Greig. He was the main scorer in the early part play in the third Test.
(Photo by PA Images via Getty Images)

West Indies batsman Brian Lara hits 4 runs, to pass the Sir Garfield Sobers record of 365 runs, during the third day of the 5th test at the Recreation Ground, St. John's, Antigua. (Photo by Rebecca Naden - PA Images/PA Images via Getty Images)

Gary Sobers, the captain of the West Indies cricket team,
who played Leicestershire at Leicester.
(Photo by PA Images via Getty Images)

West Indies' Gary Sobers hits England bowler Geoff Arnold for four runs,
at the Oval, on the second day of the first Test match.
(Photo by PA Images via Getty Images)

Garfield Sobers, the West Indies all-rounder in the West Indies cricket team now touring
England and in the view of many people the greatest player in Test cricket.
(Photo by PA Images via Getty Images)

Sport, Cricket, Georgetown, Guyana, 23rd March 1971, West Indies v India, West Indies captain Garfield Sobers appeals for LBW after bowling to India's Syed Abid Ali on the third day of the third test match which ended in a draw
(Photo by Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Cricket, 1966, West Indies tour in England, West Indian cricketers Stollmeyer, Gary Sobers and Conrad Hunt with the Wisden trophy
(Photo by Bob Thomas Sports Photography via Getty Images)

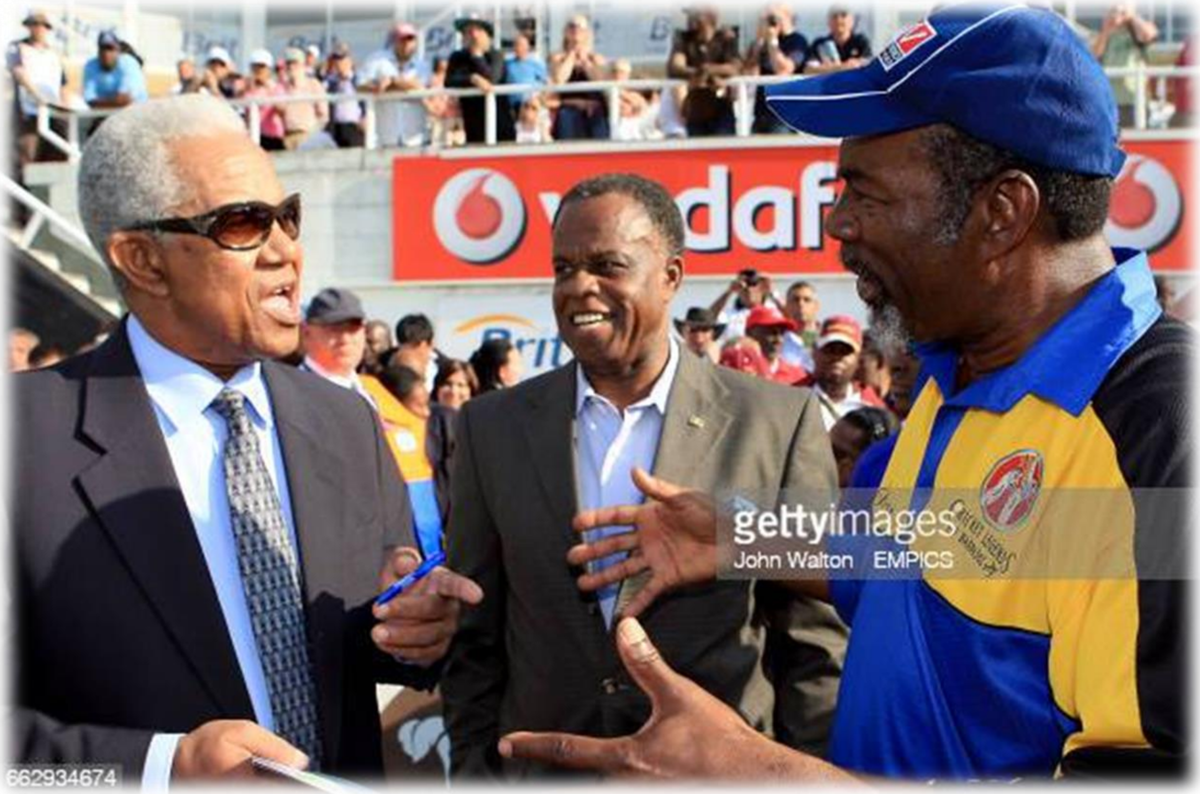
Cricket, The Oval, England, 18th August 1970, Rest of the World v England 5th Test, Captain of the Rest of the World team Gary Sobers proudly shows the trophy to the Oval crowd after defeating England by four wickets in the 5th and final test to win the series 4-1
(Photo by Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Cricket, 1966, West Indies tour in England,, Portrait of legendary West Indian all-rounder Gary Sobers
(Photo by Bob Thomas Sports Photography via Getty Images)

Basseterre, St Kitts, SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS: South African batsman Herschelle Gibbs (R) smiles as West Indian cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers recalls his six sixes at a ceremony in Saint Kitts and Nevis, 19 March 2007. Gibbs became the first man to hit six sixes in an over in one-day cricket during South Africa's Group A match against the Netherlands at Warner Park. Gibbs historic feat cost leading beverage firm Johnnie Walker USD one million, who had announced they would donate the money to charity in honour of the first player to register the landmark. (Photo credit should read SAEED KHAN/AFP via Getty Images)

England batsman Geoff Boycott tries to recover after colliding with West Indies wicketkeeper Deryck Murray (fourth left) while his batting partner Dennis Amiss shows concern, during the first innings of the 2nd Test match between England and West Indies at Edgbaston, Birmingham, 10th August 1973. The West Indies fielders gathered around Boycott are Roy Fredericks, Clive Lloyd, Keith Boyce, Garry Sobers, Lance Gibbs, Ron Headley and Alvin Kallicharran, while West Indies captain Rohan Kanhai talks with umpires Dickie Bird and Arthur Fagg. The match ended in a draw. (Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)

West Indies bowler Keith Boyce traps England batsman Alan Knott lbw during the 1st Test match between England and West Indies at The Oval, London, 31st July 1973. The West Indies fielders are (from left) Lance Gibbs, Clive Lloyd, Garry Sobers, Rohan Kanhai and wicketkeeper Deryck Murray. The non-striking batsman for England is Frank Hayes and the umpire is Tom Spencer. West Indies won the match by 158 runs.
(Photo by Ken Kelly/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)




Sir Garfield Sobers (l) chats with Barbados XI's Charles Griffiths
(Photo by John Walton - PA Images via Getty Images)

Sir Garfield Sobers and PCA Masters' Devon Malcolm
(Photo by John Walton - PA Images via Getty Images)

Sir Garfield Sobers and Sir Richard Hadlee pose with RAF Falcolns after
they parachuted in during the Lunch Break
(Photo by Chris Snowden/EMPICS via Getty Images)

Cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers and Sir Richard Hadlee sign autographs during the game
(Photo by Chris Snowden/EMPICS via Getty Images)

ir Gary Sobers shows his batting style, as he receives his Honorary Degree of Doctor Of Laws
at The University Of Nottingham
(Photo by Steve Mitchell/EMPICS via Getty Images)

BRIAN LARA [WI] IS CONGRATULATED BY SIR GARFIELD SOBERS AFTER HIS RECORD BREAKING TEST INNINGS. 5TH TEST
(Photo by Graham Chadwick/EMPICS via Getty Images)

(Original Caption) Gary Sobers and Don Kenyon
(Photo by Hulton-Deutsch/Hulton-Deutsch Collection/Corbis via Getty Images)

Gary Sobers batting with (left to right) fielders, Maurice Foster (Jamaica), Steve Camacho (Guyana) and John Shepherd (Barbados), at a practice session at Lord's
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

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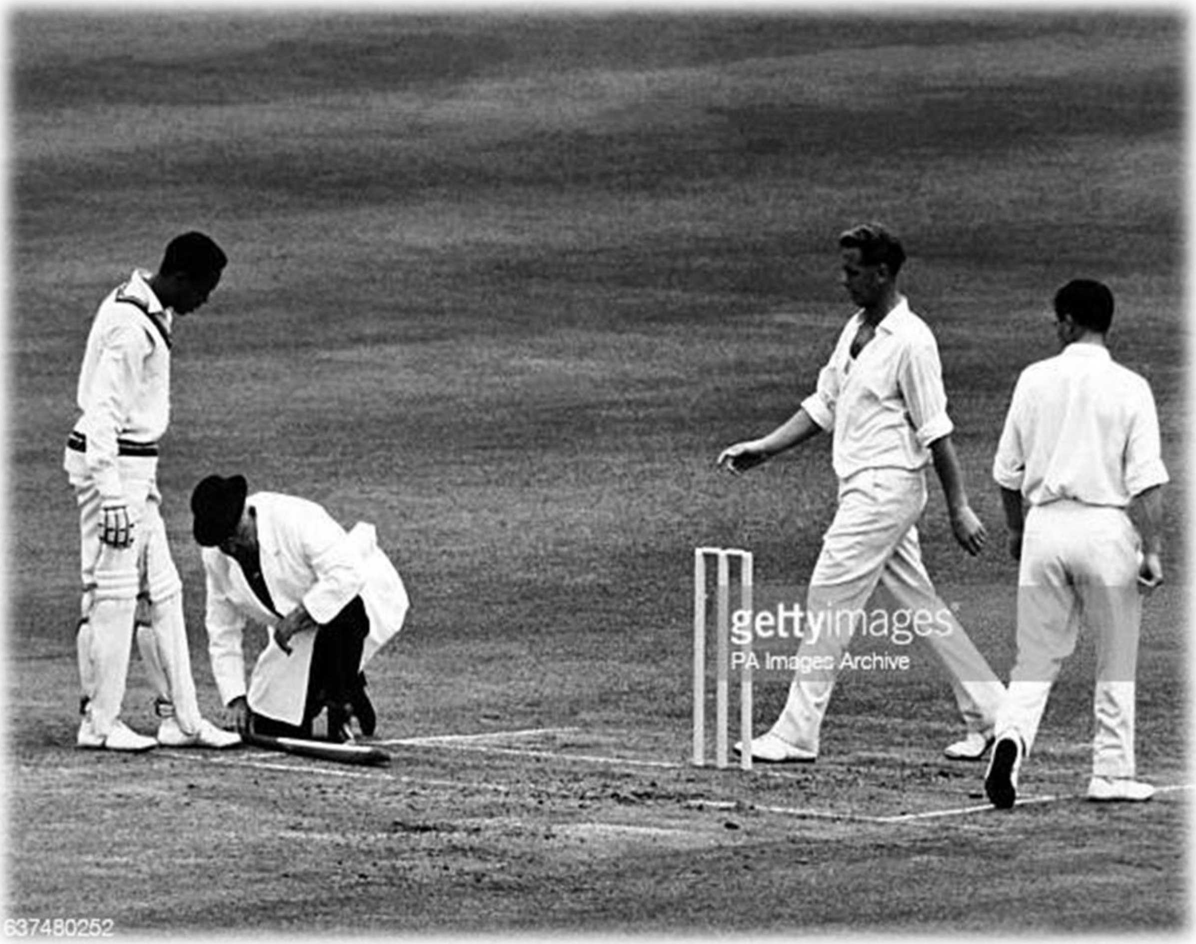
Philip Sharpe, England cuts Garry Sobers, West Indies for four.
(Photo by K. Saunders/V. Fowler/T. Sapiano/PA Images via Getty Images)

Fred Titmus (England) is caught by West Indies wicketkeeper Jackie Hendricks
off a ball from Gary Sobers, with slip fielders appealing.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)




Umpire Fred Price re-ties Gary Sobers boot laces during a break.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Basil D'Oliveira, England, is caught at leg by Basil Butcher off a ball from Gary Sobers for 7
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

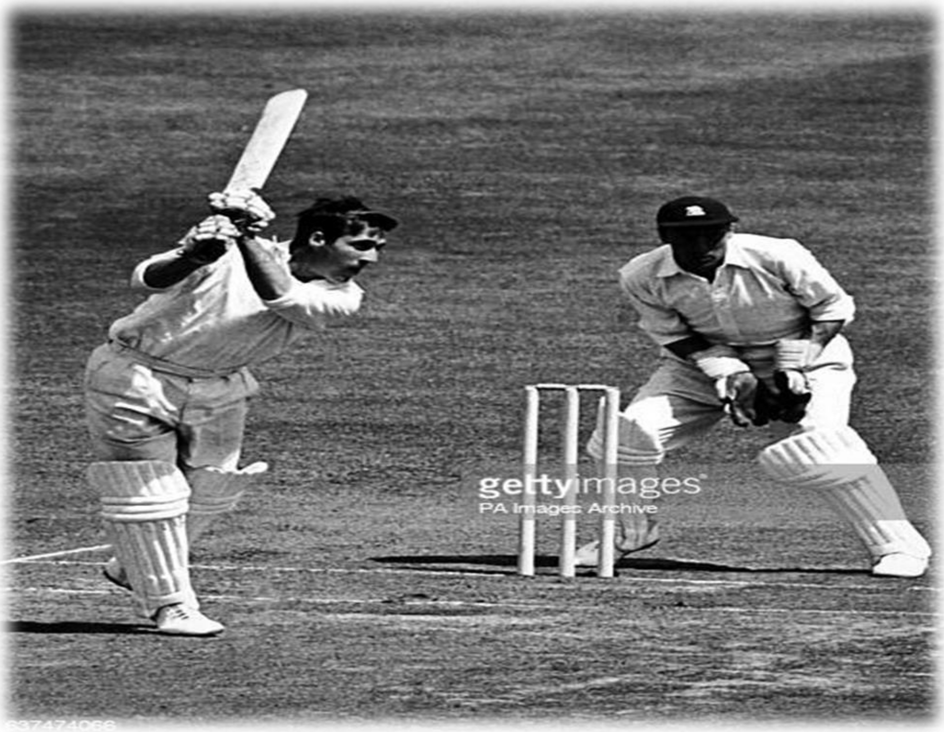
Ken Higgs is caught by Conrad Hunte off a ball from Gary Sobers for 7.
The wicket keeper is Jackie Hendriks.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Lance Gibbs (West Indies) goes down but fails to stop a cut by Colin Cowdrey off Gary Sobers.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Garfield Sobers, the West Indies captain, cuts a ball from Fred Titmus for 4.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Garfield Sobers of the West Indies square cuts David Brown of the MCC.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Cricket - International - West Indies Touring Team - Portraits - Lord's Cricket Ground
New picture of Garfield Sobers (Barbados)
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)



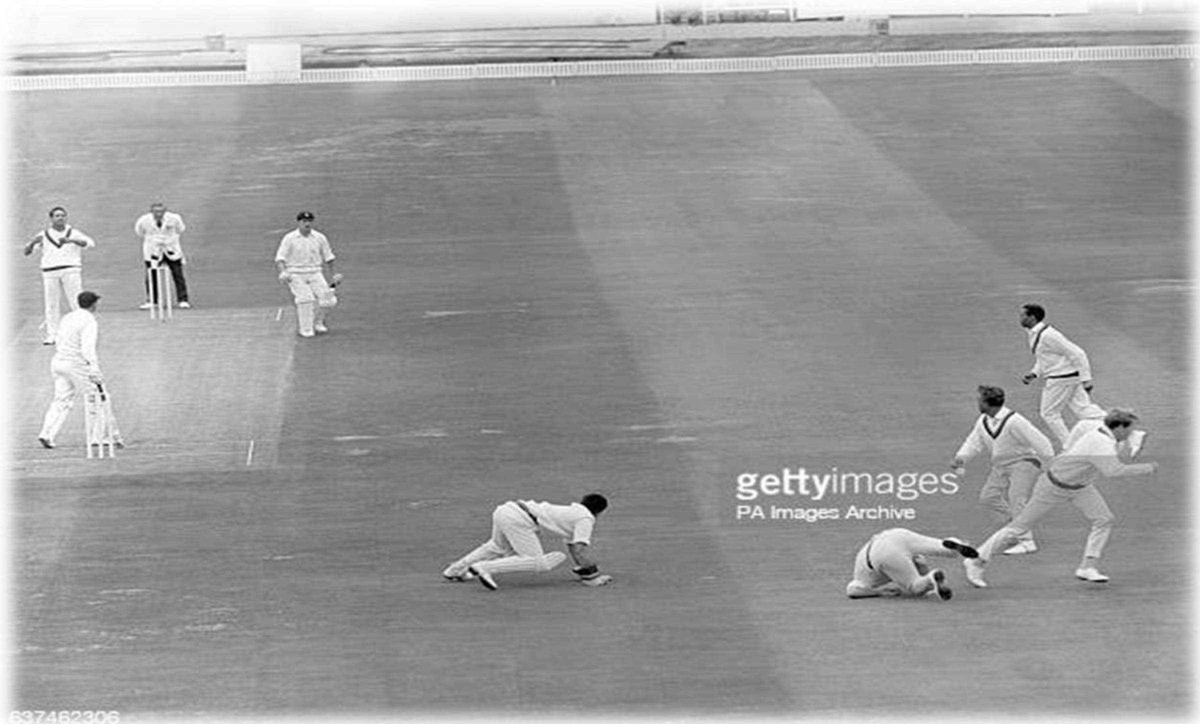
Peter Parfitt cuts Gary Sobers.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

The 1957 West Indies Touring Team for the Second Test against England at Lord's. Back Row, L to R: Wilf Ferguson (scorer), Andy Ganteaume, Nyron Sultan Asgarali, Gerry Alexander, Gary Sobers, Wesley Winfield Hall, Tom Dewdney, Alf Valentine, Bruce Pairaudeau, Roy Gilchrist, Cammie Smith, R Khanai (first name unknown) Front Row, L to R: Thomas Noel Peirce (Manager), Sonny Ramadhin, Denis Atkinson, Frank Worrell, Lord Hailes, John Goddard (Captain), Clyde Walcott, Everton Weekes, Frank de Caires (Manager)
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Cricket legends Sir Richard Hadlee  and Sir Garfield Sobers take to the field at Trent Bridge, where they were preparing for the 'Superkings of Cricket' limited over match on 30/6/01. The teams include the most prolific bowlers in Test and One-Day cricket.
* Courtney Walsh and Wasim Akram respectively, have been gathered to raise funds to revamp and extend the famous Trent Bridge pavilion.
(Photo by David Jones - PA Images/PA Images via Getty Images)

Old England XI's Fred Trueman (r) points an accusing finger at Old International XI's Gary Sobers (l) after the latter hit a six off the former's bowling
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

England captain Ray Illingworth (l) and Rest of the World XI captain Garry Sobers (r) after the toss-up (Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)



Ball from Garry Sobers (Rest of the World) to England's Geoff Boycott sends wicketkeeper Deryck Murray and the fielders in a spin
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Australia's Alan Davidson (c) is caught by West Indies wicketkeeper Gerry Alexander (l) off the bowling of Gary Sobers (r), watched by Australia's Richie Benaud (second l)
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

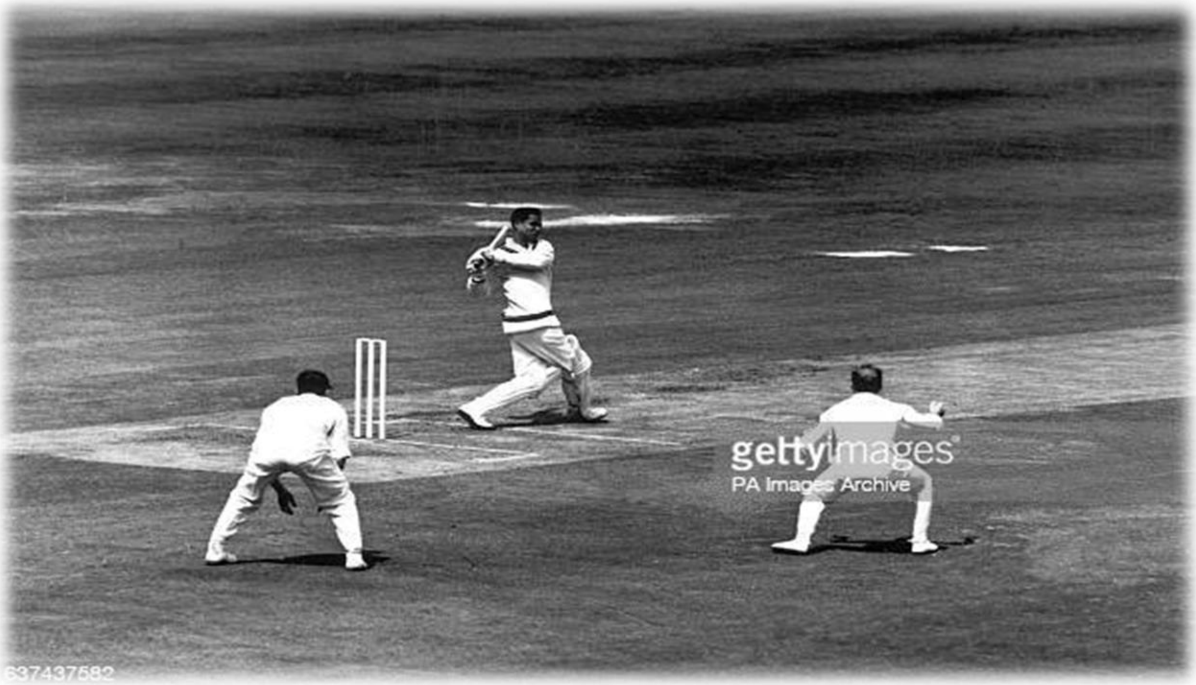
West Indies' Basil Butcher (fourth r) sweeps Australia's Laurie Mayne (top r) for four, watched by Australia wicketkeeper Wally Grout (second r) and teammate Gary Sobers (l)
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

(L-R) England's Tom Graveney tries to sweep the ball past West Indies' David Allan, Seymour Nurse and Gary Sobers.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

England's Tom Graveney (fourth r) drives a ball from West Indies' Gary Sobers (fourth l) past Conrad Hunte (r), watched by teammate Geoff Boycott (second l) and West Indies' Charlie Griffith (l), David Allan (second r), Rohan Kanhai (fifth r) and Wes Hall (third r)
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

West Indies' Garfield Sobers (r) looks on as England's Jeff Jones (l) bowls
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

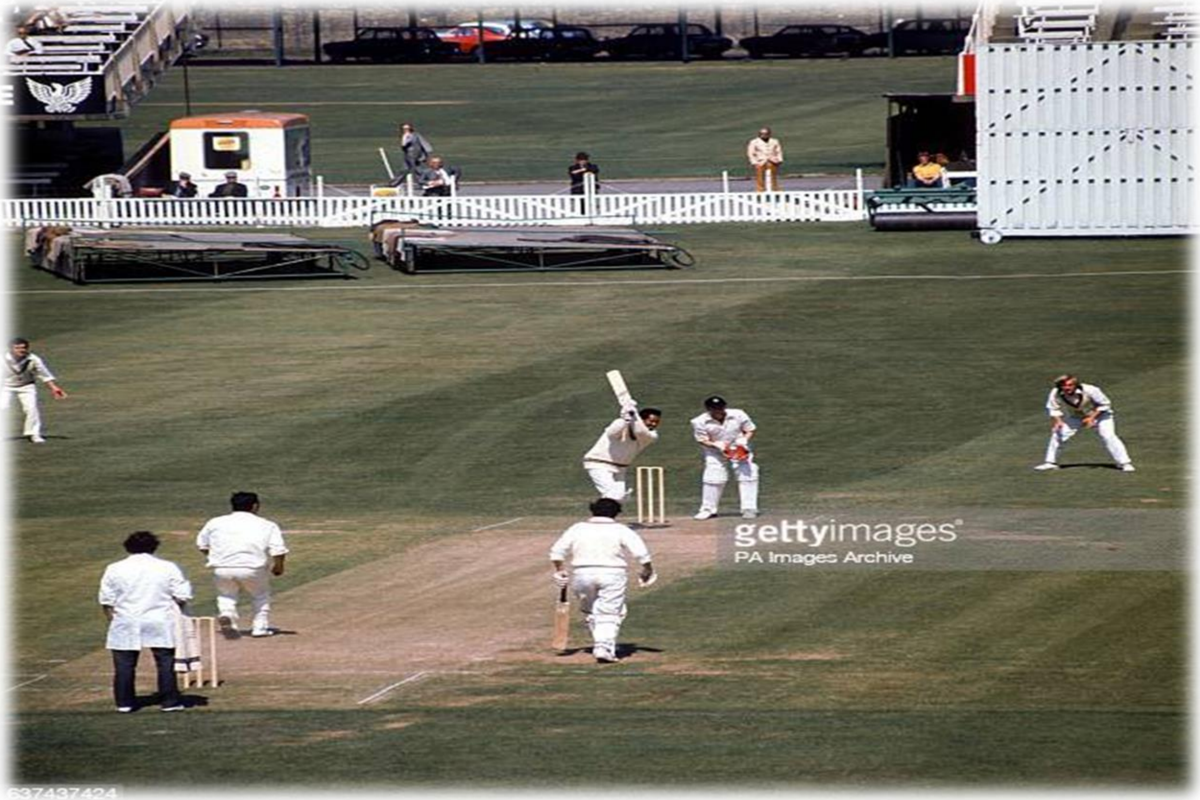
(L-R) West Indies' Gary Sobers acknowledges the crowd as he walks in with David Holford at the end of the fourth day's play, having scored 121
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)




Cricket - The Wisden Trophy - Second Test - England v West Indies - First Day
West Indies' Garfield Sobers (c) batting.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

West Indies' Garfield Sobers (r) acknowledges the applause of the
crowd after completing his century.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

West Indies' Garfield Sobers ends up facing his own wicket after hooking the ball to the boundary.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)



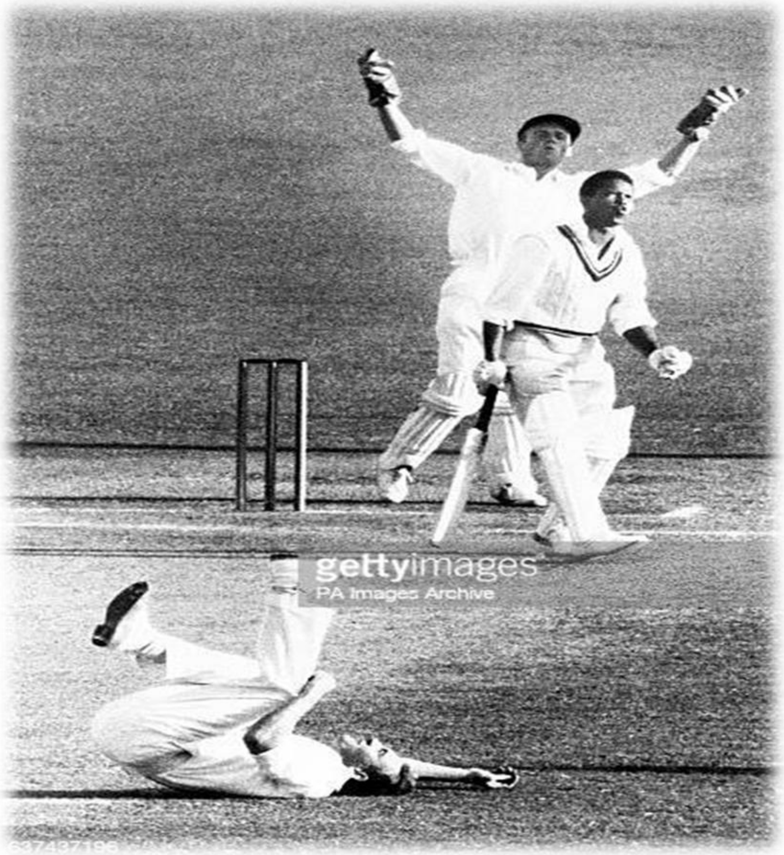

Nottinghamshire's Garfield Sobers (c) drives a ball from Middlesex's Keith Jones (bottom l) to the boundary
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

MCC's Garfield Sobers (l) bowling.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

MCC's Garfield Sobers (l) takes a catch to dismiss Surrey's Ron Tindall (r)
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Nottinghamshire's Garfield Sobers (c) cuts the ball away.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Rest of the World's Garfield Sobers (l) bowling.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)



South Australia's Garfield Sobers (r) narrowly escapes dismissal as
MCC wicketkeeper Alan Smith (top, c) appeals.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

West Indies team group (back row, l-r) Andy Ganteaume, Nyron Asgarali, Gerry Alexander, Denis Atkinson, Tom Dewdney, Wes Hall, Gary Sobers, Bruce Pairaudeau, Roy Gilchrist, Cammie Smith (front row, l-r) Sonny Ramadhin, Frank Worrell, John Goddard, Clyde Walcott, Everton Weekes, Alfred Valentine.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

HRH Queen Elizabeth II (l) is introduced to West Indies' Gary Sobers (c) before the start of the first day's play at Lord's.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

West Indies team group, featuring Rohan Kanhai (front row, second l), Gary Sobers (front row, fourth l) and Wes Hall (front row, r).
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Rest of the World's Gary Sobers is surrounded by young autograph hunting fans
after taking six wickets for 21 runs in England XI's first innings.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

(L-R) West Indies captain Gary Sobers discusses cricket over drinks at the Cafe Royal with the
New Zealand High Commissioner in London, Thomas McDonald, and
the President of the Lord's Taverners, Ronnie Waldman.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Cricket - The Wisden Trophy - Second Test - England v West Indies - Third Day.
West Indies captain Gary Sobers (second r) leads his team out
into the field at Lord's.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

Rest of the World's Gary Sobers (l) bowling.
(Photo by S&G/PA Images via Getty Images)

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD - APRIL 9: (TOUCHLINE IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE TO CLIENTS IN THE UK, USA AND AUSTRALIA ONLY) Brian Lara of the West Indies receives a trophy from Sir Garfield Sobers to commemorate his record breaking 27th test century for a West Indian Batsman during the second day of the second test against South Africa April 9, 2005 in Port of Spain, Trinidad.
(Photo by Touchline/Getty Images)

Sri Lankan cricketers pose with West Indian cricket legend Garfield Sobers (C) and former Sri Lanka cricket captain Michael Tissera (C/R) after Sri Lanka's victory in the Test match series between Sri Lanka and the West Indies at the P. Sara Oval Cricket Stadium in Colombo on October 26, 2015. Sri Lanka defeated the West Indies by 72 runs in the second and final Test in Colombo to sweep the series 2-0.
(Photo credit should read Ishara S.KODIKARA/AFP via Getty Images)

West Indian cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers (3R) ,Sri Lankan cricket captain Angelo Mathews (3L) West Indies cricket captain Jason Holder (2L),Match referee David Boon (L) and former Sri Lanka cricket captain Michael Tissera (2R) pose for photographers before the start of the first day of their second Test cricket match between Sri Lanka and the West Indies at the P. Sara Oval Cricket Stadium in Colombo on October 22, 2015.
(Photo credit should read Ishara S.KODIKARA/AFP via Getty Images)

West Indian cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers (2R), Sri Lankan cricket captain Angelo Mathews (L) and West Indies cricket captain Jason Holder (R) pose for photographers with the Sobers/Tissera Trophy before the start of the first day of their second Test cricket match between Sri Lanka and

the West Indies at the P. Sara Oval Cricket Stadium in Colombo on October 22, 2015. (Photo credit should read Ishara S.KODIKARA/AFP via Getty Images)

West Indian cricket legend Garfield Sobers (R) and former Sri Lanka cricket captain Michael Tissera (L) pose at a press conference in Colombo on October 2I, 2015. Sobers accused cash-rich Twenty20 tournaments of taking a toll on the longest form of the game, Test cricket. (Photo credit should read LAKRUWAN WANNIARACHCHI/AFP via Getty Images)

West Indian cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers (2L), West Indies cricket chairman of selectors Clive Lloyd (2R) and West Indies cricketer Marlon Samuels (L) talk during a West Indies

practice session at the P. Sara Oval Cricket Stadium in Colombo on October 21, 2015, ahead of the second Test match against Sri Lanka on October 22.
(Photo credit should read Ishara S.KODIKARA/AFP via Getty Images)

West Indian cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers (2R) speaks with West Indian cricketers during a practice session at the P. Sara Oval Cricket Stadium in Colombo on October 21, 2015, ahead of a second Test match against Sri Lanka on October 22.
(Photo credit should read Ishara S.KODIKARA/AFP via Getty Images)

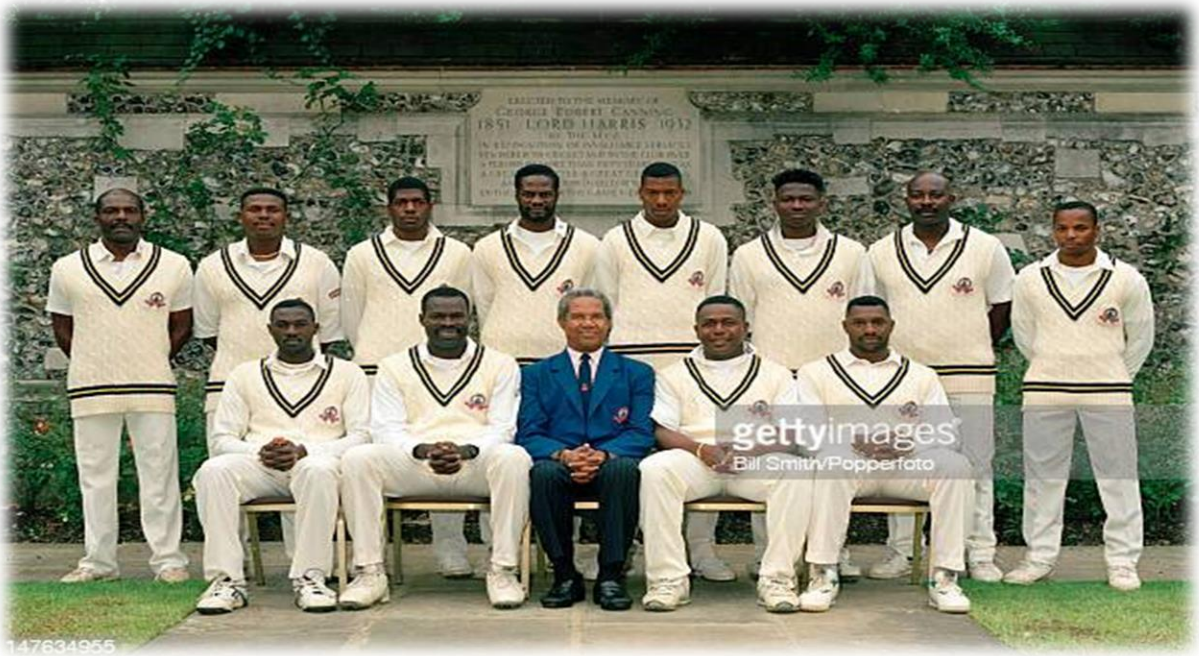
West Indian cricket legend Garfield Sobers (C) and Sri Lankan Cricket Chairman Sidath Wettimuny (2L) walk during a welcome ceremony in Colombo on October 20, 2015. Sobers is in Sri Lanka at the invitation of The Sri Lankan Cricket Board to see the West Indies v Sri Lanka cricket tour. The two Test match series is being played for the Sobers/Tissera Trophy as a tribute to the former

West Indies all-rounder and captain and Michael Tissera, the former Sri Lanka captain.
(Photo credit should read LAKRUWAN WANNIARACHCHI/AFP via Getty Images)

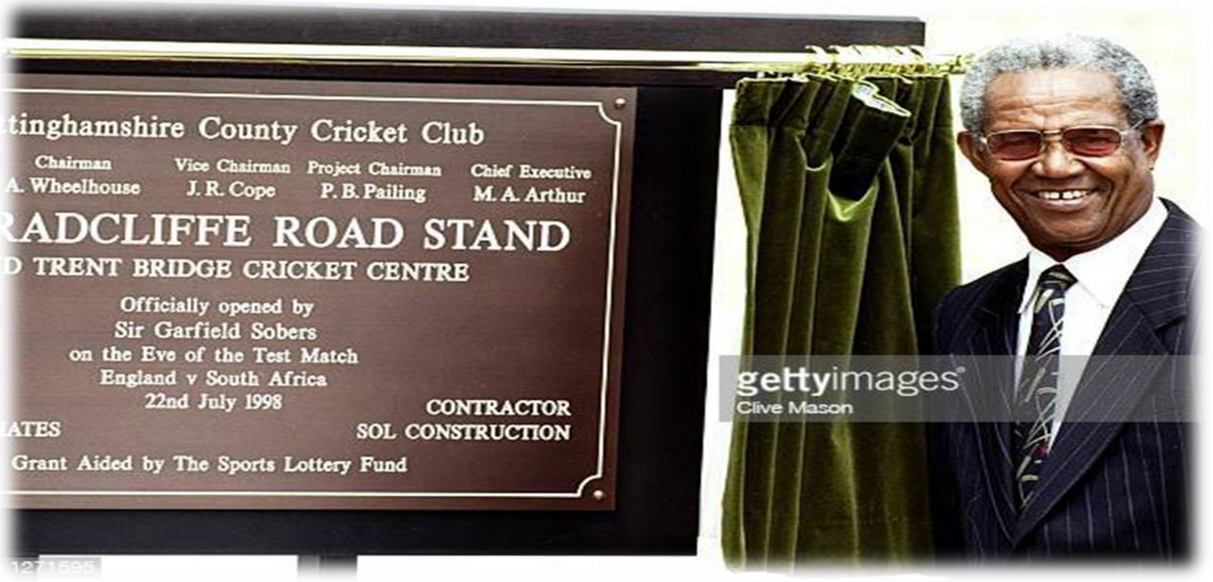
KINGSTON, JAMAICA - MARCH 9: West Indies Captain Brian Lara chats to Sir Garfield Sobers during the West Indies net practice at the Kensington Cricket Ground on March 9, 2004 in Kingston, Jamaica.
(Photo by Ben Radford/Getty Images)

The West Indies cricket team in England, May 1957. Back row (left-right): Andrew Ganteaume, Rohan Kanhai, Nyron Asgarali, Gerry Alexander, Denis Atkinson, Tom Dewdney, Wes Hall, Garfield Sobers, Bruce Pairaudeau, Roy Gilchrist, O'Neil Gordon Smith.
Front row: Sonny Ramadhin, Frank Worrell, John Goddard (captain),

Clyde Walcott, Everton Weekes and Alf Valentine.
(Photo by Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images)




Holders Hill cricket team from Barbados prior to their match against the MCC at Lord's cricket ground in London, 6th September 1994. Holders Hill were invited to play at Lord's by the MCC President Dennis Silk, thus becoming the first overseas village team to play at Lord's. They were managed by Sir Garry Sobers (blue blazer) and captained by Desmond Haynes (front row, 2nd from right). Also in the Holders Hill team were Philo Wallace and Adrian Griffith. MCC won by 35 runs.
(Photo by Bill Smith/Popperfoto via Getty Images)



22 Jul 1998: Sir Garfield Sobers opens the new Radcliffe Road Stand before the Fourth Test match between England and South Africa at Trent Bridge in Nottingham, England.
Mandatory Credit: Clive Mason/Allsport

18 APR 1994: ENGLAND V WEST INDIES, FIFTH TEST, BRIAN LARA CREATES CRICKET HISTORY BY BEATING SIR GARFIELD SOBERS TEST INNINGS RECORD OF 365 WITH A HOOK OFF CHRIS LEWIS FOR FOUR AT THE RECREATION GROUND, ST JOHNS. LARA WENT ON TO SCORE 375.
Mandatory Credit: Ben Radford/ALLSPORT

19 Nov 2000: Sir Garfield Sobers of the West Indies talks to the media after arriving at Brisbane International Airport in Brisbane, Australia. He is in Brisbane

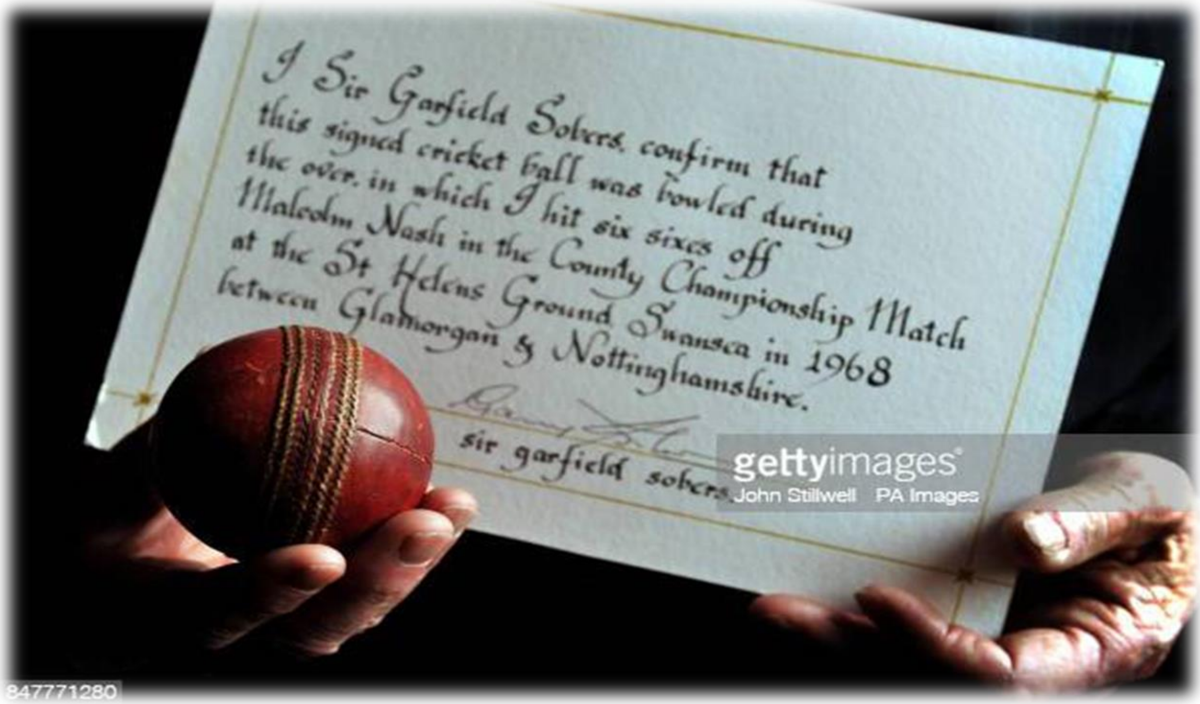
as part of the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Tied Test during
the 1960-61 West Indies cricket tour of Australia.
DIGITAL IMAGE. Mandatory Credit: Darren England/ALLSPORT

19 Nov 2000: Sir Garfield Sobers and Rohan Kanhai of the West Indies share a joke together after arriving at Brisbane International Airport in Brisbane, Australia. They are in Brisbane as part of the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Tied Test duringthe 1960-61 West Indies cricket tour of Australia.
DIGITAL IMAGE. Mandatory Credit: Darren England/ALLSPORT

Sobers falls in this attempt for a catch while playing first slip.Cricket great, Gary Sobers, plays for South Australia at Manly Oval after coming out of retirement to play in a veterans side. September 28, 1980.
(Photo by Julian Kevin Zakaras/Fairfax Media via Getty Images).

Sir Garfield Sobers. January 1, 1993.
(Photo by Simon Alekna/Fairfax Media via Getty Images)

Sir Garfield Sobers. January 1, 1993.
(Photo by Simon Alekna/Fairfax Media via Getty Images).




The ball Sir Garfield (Gary) Sobers hit six sixes off one over in 1968,
which goes under the Hammer for an estimated price of & pound;20,000-£25,000,
at Bonhams the auctioneers in central London.
(Photo by John Stillwell/PA Images via Getty Images)

The West Indies cricketers, now engaged on their summer tour of Britain. L to R - Back row: George Duckworth (scorer and baggage master), Willie Rodriguez, Seymour Nurse, Michael Carew, Charles Griffith, Lester King, Easton McMorris, Lancelott Gibbs, Basil Butcher, Mr William Pye (Physiotherapist). Centre: Mr Berkeley Gaskin (Manager), Rohan Kanhai, Conrad Hunte, Frank Worrell (capt), Wesley Hall, Garfield Sobers, Alf Valentine, and Mr H Burnett (Assistant Manager). Front: Deryck Murray, Joe Solomon and David Allan. (Photo by PA Images via Getty Images)

West Indian cricketers choosing their bats at Slazengers, Mitcham Road, Croydon , Surrey. From left to right: Rohan Kanhai (British Guiana), Garfield Sobers, the captain (Barbados) and

Wesley Winfield Hall (Barbados). The team arrived in London yesterday and
will go into practice at the end of the week.
(Photo by PA Images via Getty Images)

Australia?s Ricky Ponting was named ICC Cricketer of the Year for the second year running at the ICC Awards in Johannesburg 10 September 2007. Ponting was the winner after the ballots from the 56-member ICC Awards Voting Academy were tallied, thus adding the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy to the award for Captain of the Year, won earlier in the evening.
(Photo credit should read ALEXANDER JOE/AFP via Getty Images)

Cricket - Weekend of Legends - Sir Garfield Sobers XI v Sir Richard Hadlee XI - Trent Bridge
South African legend Allan Donald celebrates capturing the wicket of Pakistan's Saeed Anwar with countryman Shaun Pollock.
(Photo by Chris Snowden/EMPICS via Getty Images)

MUMBAI, INDIA - MARCH 4, 2010: Sachin Tendulkar is felicitated by Ajij Wadekar as Srinivas Venkataraghavan and Sir Garry - Garfield Sobers look on at the Nehru Science Center, Worli, on Thursday.
(Photo by Kunal Patil/Hindustan Times via Getty Images)

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM: India's Rahul Dravid looks at his two trophies after winning the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy as Player of the Year and also being named Test Player of the Year at the ICC Awards 2004 at Alexandra Palace in London 07 September 2004. The awards recognise the outstanding performances of individuals and teams over the past 12 months. (Photo credit should read ADRIAN DENNIS/AFP via Getty Images)

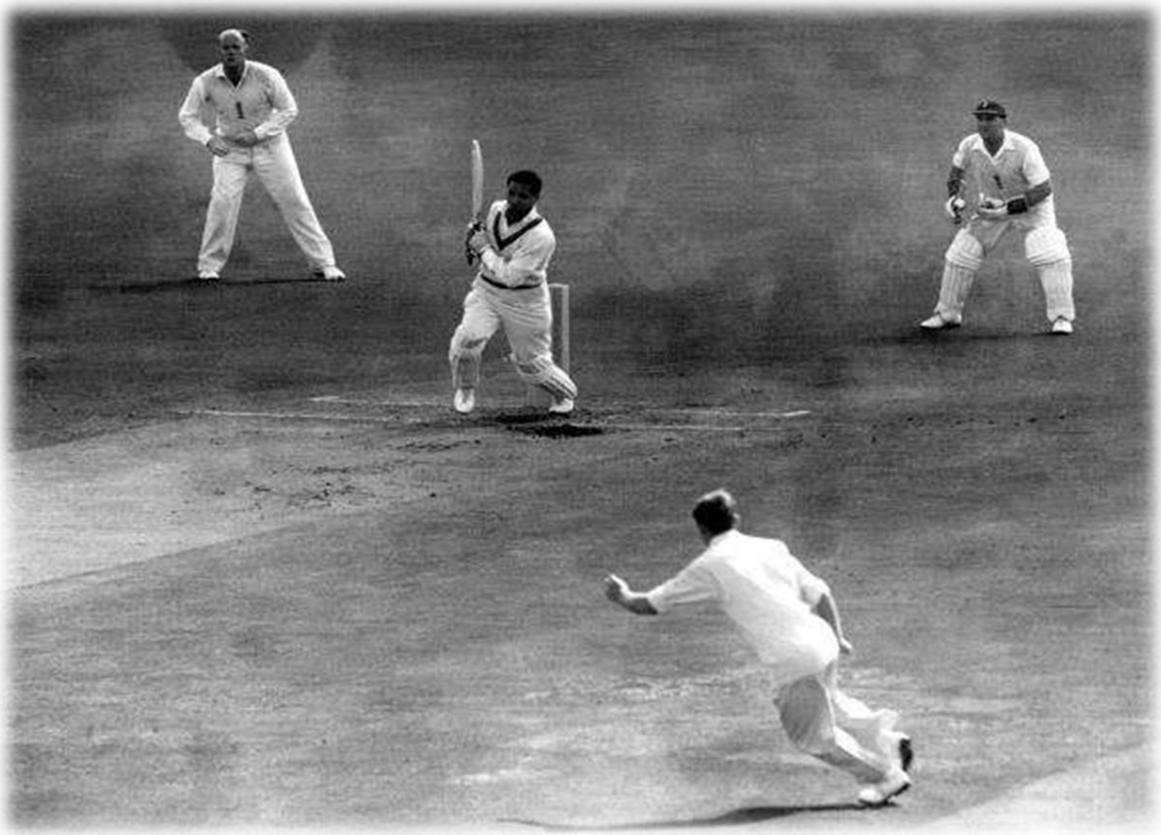
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA - SEPTEMBER 15: Kumar Sangakkara of Sri Lanka with his three trophies, the LG People Choice Award, Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for Cricketer of the Year and ICC Test Player of the Year during the LG ICC Awards at the Waters Edge Resort on September 15, 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
(Photo by Christopher Lee-ICC/ICC via Getty Images)

Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley (L), President of Barbados Dame Sandra Mason (2nd L), National Hero Sir Garfield Sobers (3rd L), Charles, Prince of Wales (C) and Rihanna (2nd R) look on during the Three Cheers to Barbados at the ceremony to declare Barbados a Republic and the Inauguration of the President of Barbados at Heroes Square in Bridgetown, Barbados, on November 30, 2021. - Fireworks filled the sky over Barbados as the Caribbean island nation declared itself the world's newest republic, lowering Queen Elizabeth's flag as it severed

colonial-era ties to the British throne to the sound of jubilant gun salutes.
(Photo by RANDY BROOKS/AFP via Getty Images)

21 Nov 2000; Left to right; Rohan Kanhai (WI), Joe Solomon (WI), Sir Garfield Sobers (WI), Lindsay Kline (Aus), Ian Meckiff (Aus), Gerry Alexander (WI), Richie Benaud (Aus), Wesley Hall (WI) and journalist Mike Coward sit in front of the famous Ron Lovett photograph as they join other players from Australia and West Indies who played in the first ever tied Test match at The Gabba in 1960 along with the current players of Australia and West Indies for a fortieth anniversary reunion of the tied Test at the Brisbane Convention Centre ahead of the First Test Match between Australia and the West Indies at The Gabba cricket ground, Brisbane, Australia. Mandatory Credit: Nick Wilson/ALLSPORT

Gary Sobers makes the fatal swing to leg and the ball flies upwards.
He was caught by Tom Graveney (left) after scoring 17.



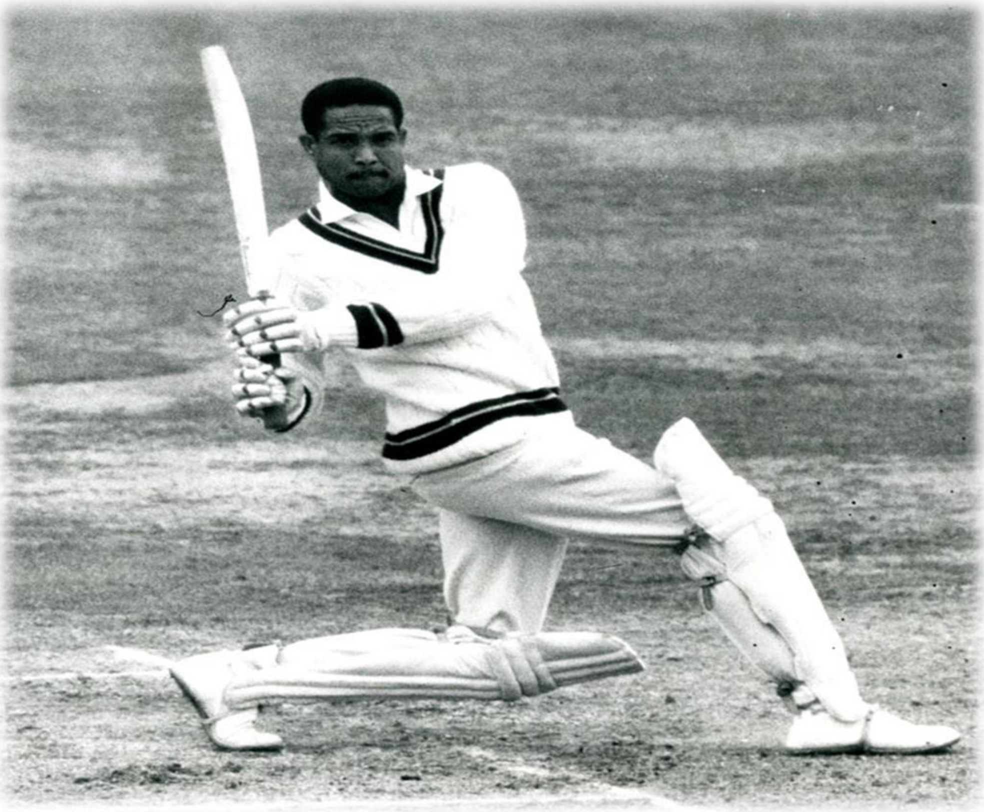
SK Flashback: Garry Sobers makes his debut against England at Kingston.

Celebrating Garry Sobers' 26th and final Test century, a thing of unalloyed beauty !

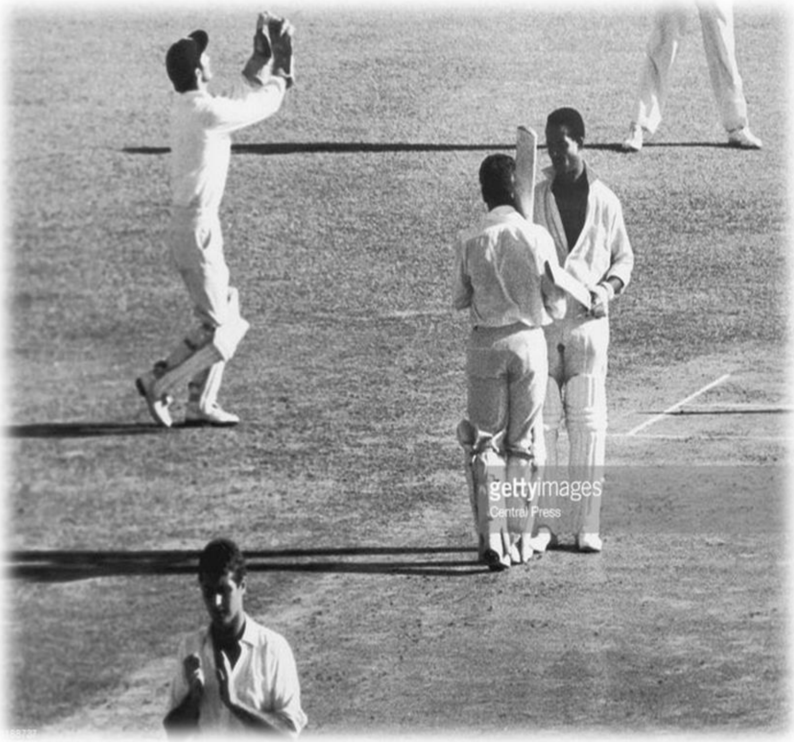
West Indies Captain Garfield Sobers out first ball leg before wicket to John Snow during the third day in second test match

Garry Sobers and Frank Worrell completed a West Indies record 4th wicket partnership of 399 against England in Barbados.

Sir Garfield Sobers - was the most complete and versatile player in the history of Test cricket with colossal achievements with bat and ball.



Sir Garfield sobers scored his final test century with a superb unbeaten knock of 150* versus England at Lord's in 1973.




Gary Sobers congratulates Rohan Kanhai on his century for the West Indies against England, circa 1968.

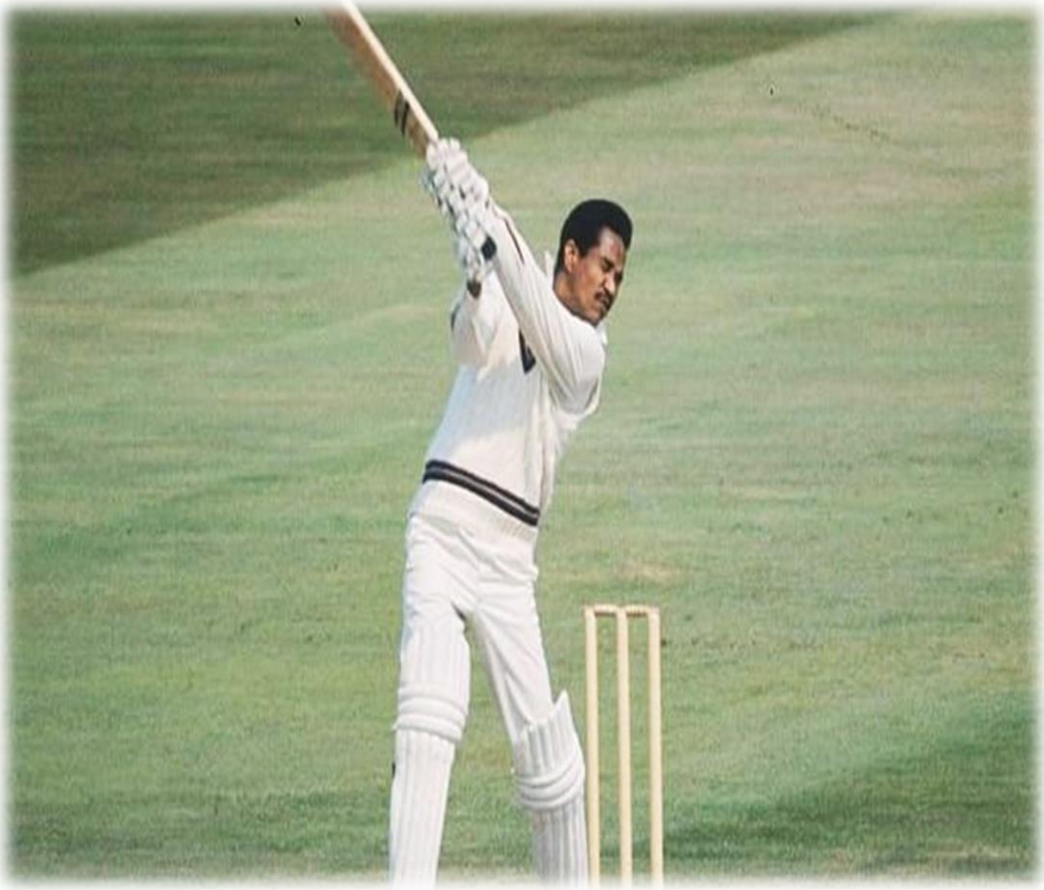
Special Moment": Sachin Tendulkar Shares Pic with Sir Garfield Sobers from Lord's.

Sporting bygones: Cricket's new 'tee-total' attitude will amuse players like legendary West Indies party animal Garry Sobers.

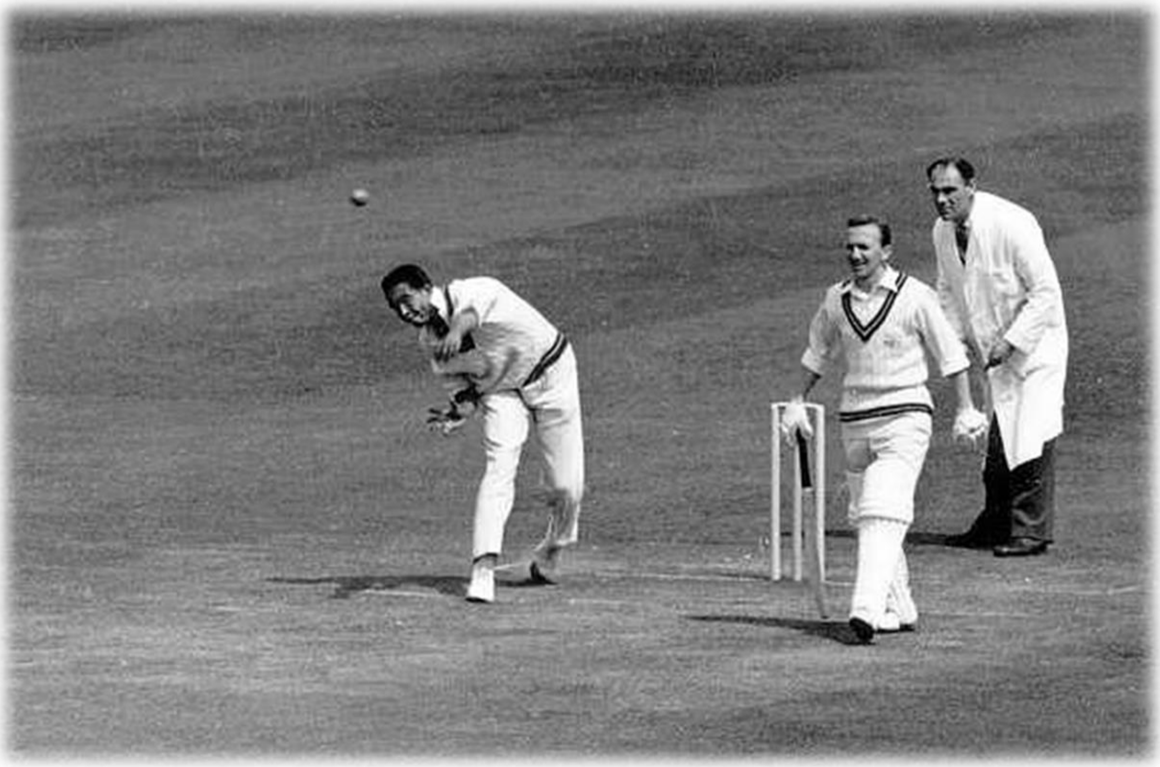
Celebrating Sir Garry Sobers - The Bowler .

Gary Sobers in Ceylon … and then the Lankan Sobers: Pictorial Tales.

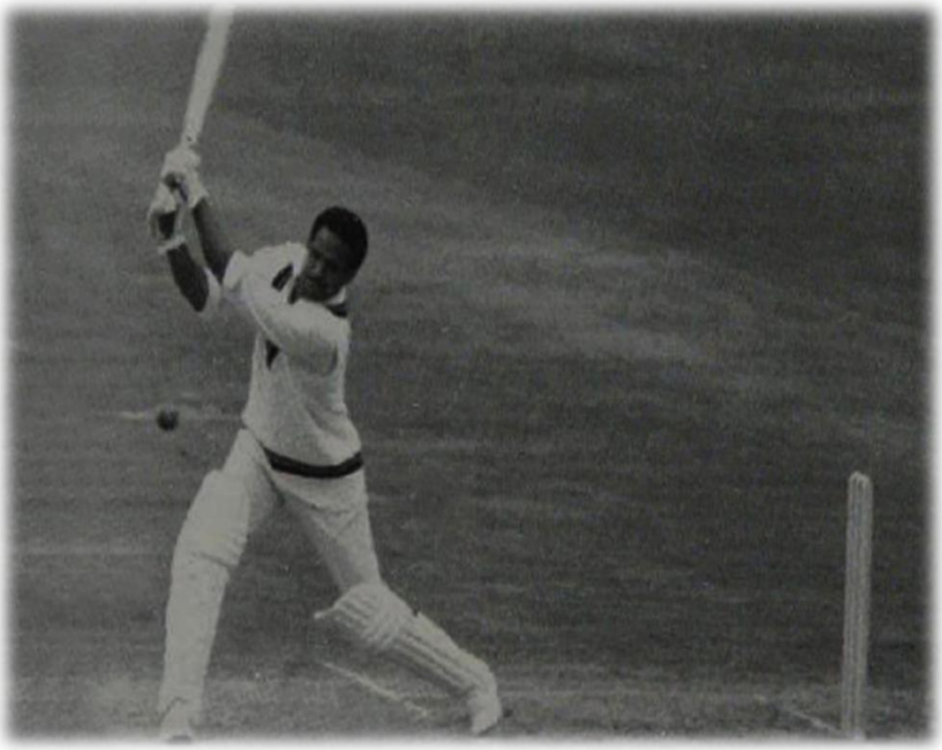
The Cricketer Who Could Do Everything, Sir Garry Sobers Turns 81.



Garry Sobers got out on duck in his career's only ODI match.



SK Flashback: Garry Sobers makes his debut against England at Kingston.

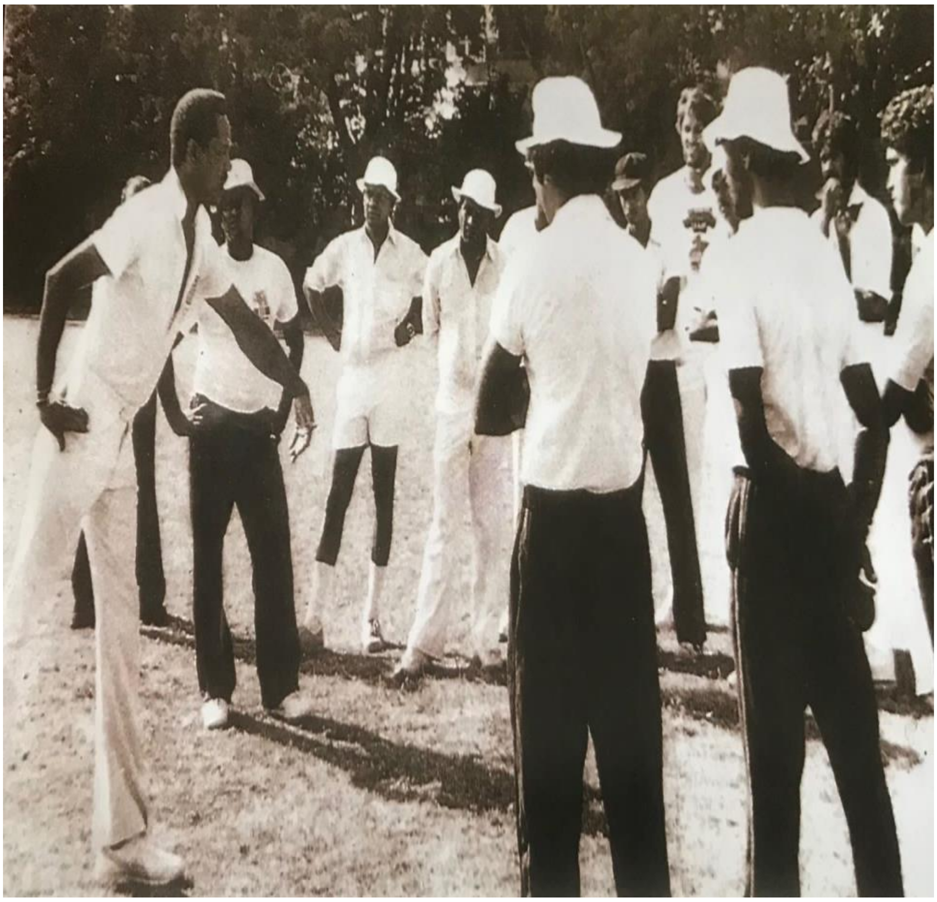


Sir Garfield Sobers: Cricket's First Einstein.

Greatness challenged will always out: what Garfield Sobers moment taught Jack.

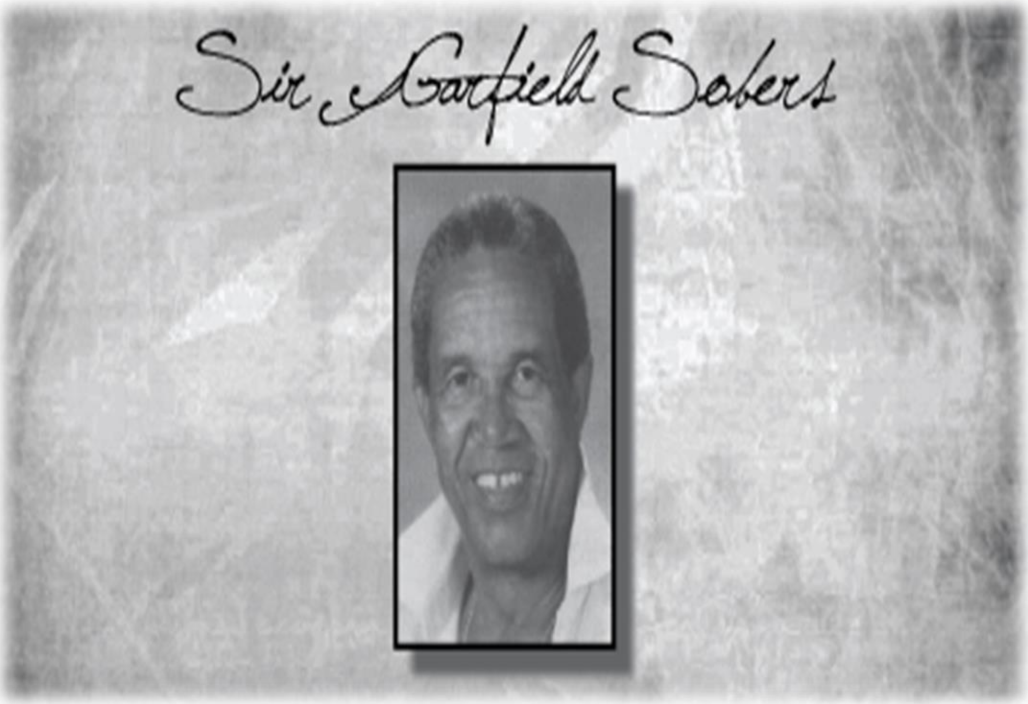
Sir Garry Sobers visits Windies camp ahead of England series.

Deryck Murray: Sobers bowled faster than Hall and Griffith.



Sir Garfield Sobers – Sri Lanka's First Foreign Coach.

Sir Garry Sobers says fans might enjoy 'Bazball' but it doesn't quite float his boat.




Sir Garfield Sobers - Barbados Pocket Guide.

Oman's cricket hear Pankaj Khimji with legends Garfield Sobers, Sachin Tendulkar and Farokh Engineer at Lords, England.

Garry Sobers provides glimpses of his greatness to come on his Test debut.

Virender Sehwag wishes Sir Garry Sobers in his usual quirky style.

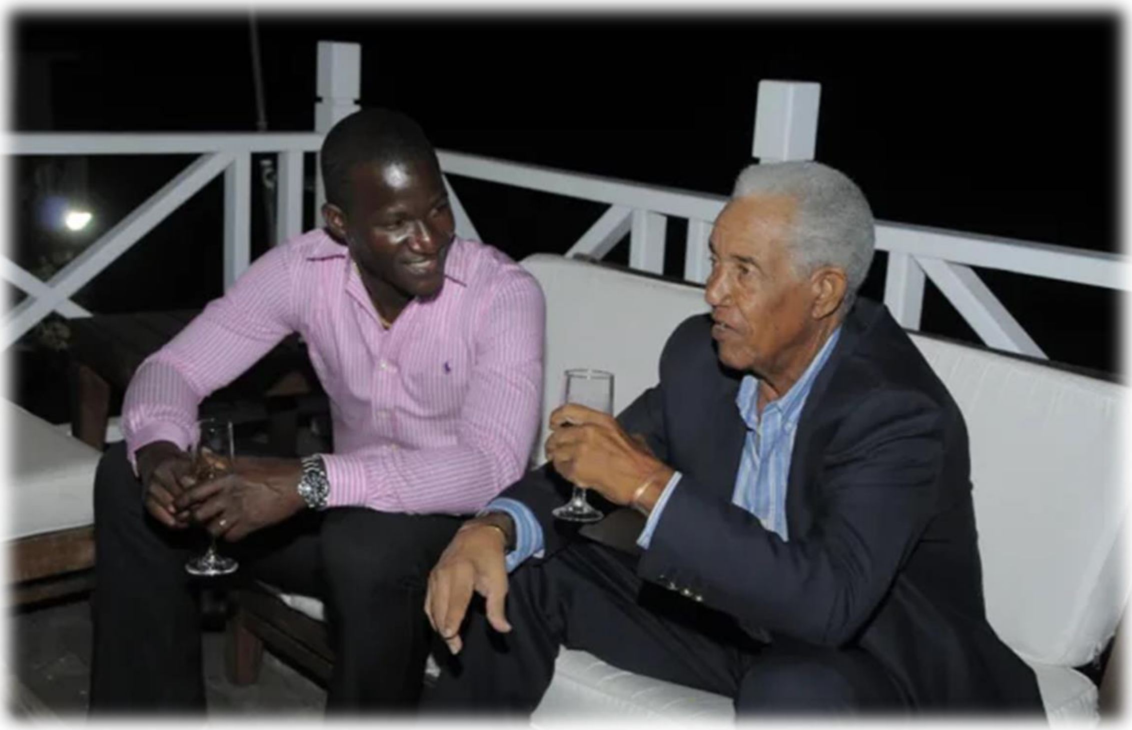
Garry Sobers presents Jomel Warrican with his maiden Test cap.

Garry Sobers displays his Barbados Tridents jersey• Jul 26, 2014

Darren Bravo receives some tips from Garry Sobers• May 30, 2014

Chris Gayle is flanked by Garry Sobers and Viv Richards• Mar 13, 2014

Garry Sobers catches up with Kemar Roach and Sulieman Benn• May 26, 2014



Darren Sammy with Sir Garry Sobers· Mar 16, 2013

Garry Sobers speaks at a coaching camp· Aug 07, 2007

Ramnaresh Sarwan and Sir Garry Sobers with participants at a
Digicel Cricket Clinic• Sep 07, 2009.

Garry Sobers speaks to youngsters at a coaching clinic• Aug 07, 2007

Garry Sobers, Bernard Julien and Ramnaresh Sarwan at a coaching camp· Aug 07, 2007·Digicel

Sir Viv Richards, Sir Garry Sobers and Allen Stanford share a light moment with Mike Haysman· Jul 18, 2006

Sir Viv Richards, Sir Garry Sobers and Allen Stanford sign autographs· Jul 18, 2006·

Garry Sobers watches Brian Lara bat in the nets· Mar 10, 2004

Garry Sobers with Brian Lara at Kensington Oval on the
40th anniversary of Sobers' Test career• Nov 30, 1993

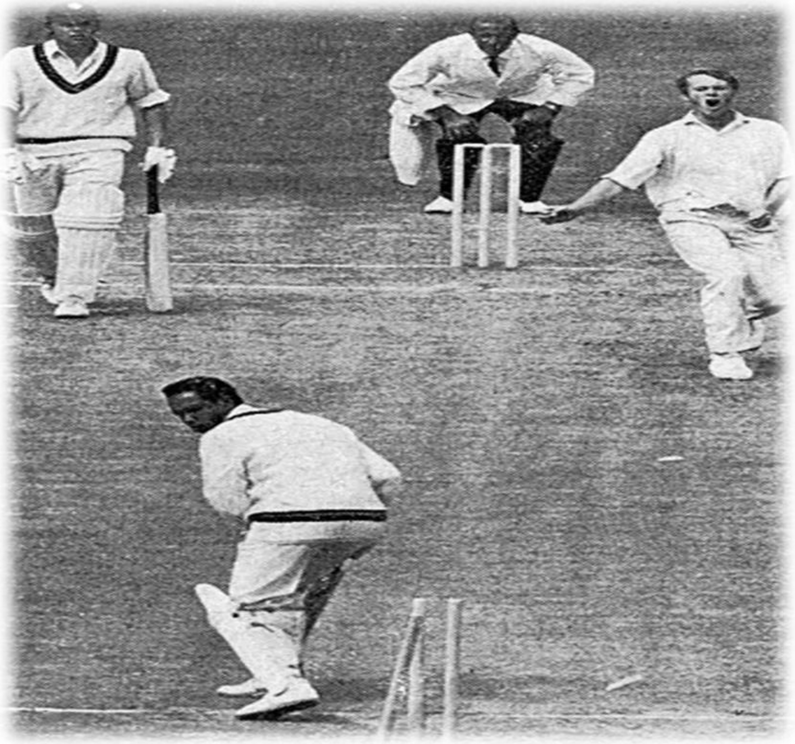
The Old World XI squad poses for photos before the match against
the Old England XI. Sep 17, 1983.

Garry Sobers takes a catch to dismiss Brian Luckhurst for 12 off Bernard Julien's bowling• Aug 27, 1973

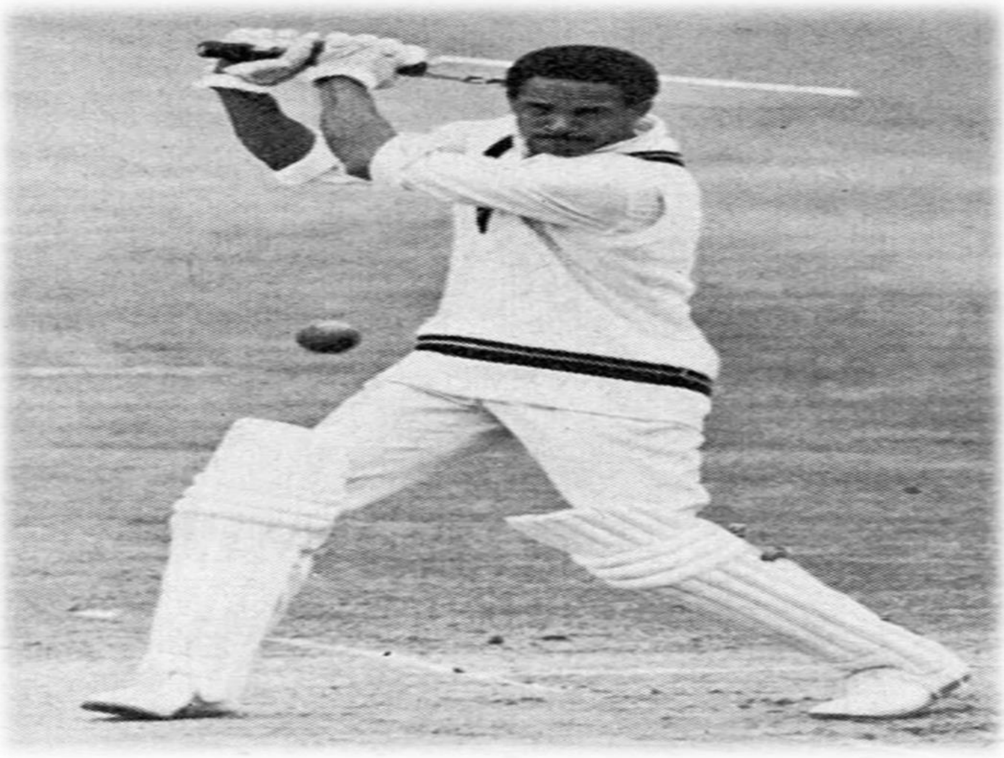
Garry Sobers drives Terry Jenner on his way to 254• Jan 05, 1972

Garry Sobers returns after his epic 254• Jan 05, 1972.

Garry Sobers with Eddie Barlow in Rhodesia• Aug 31, 1970

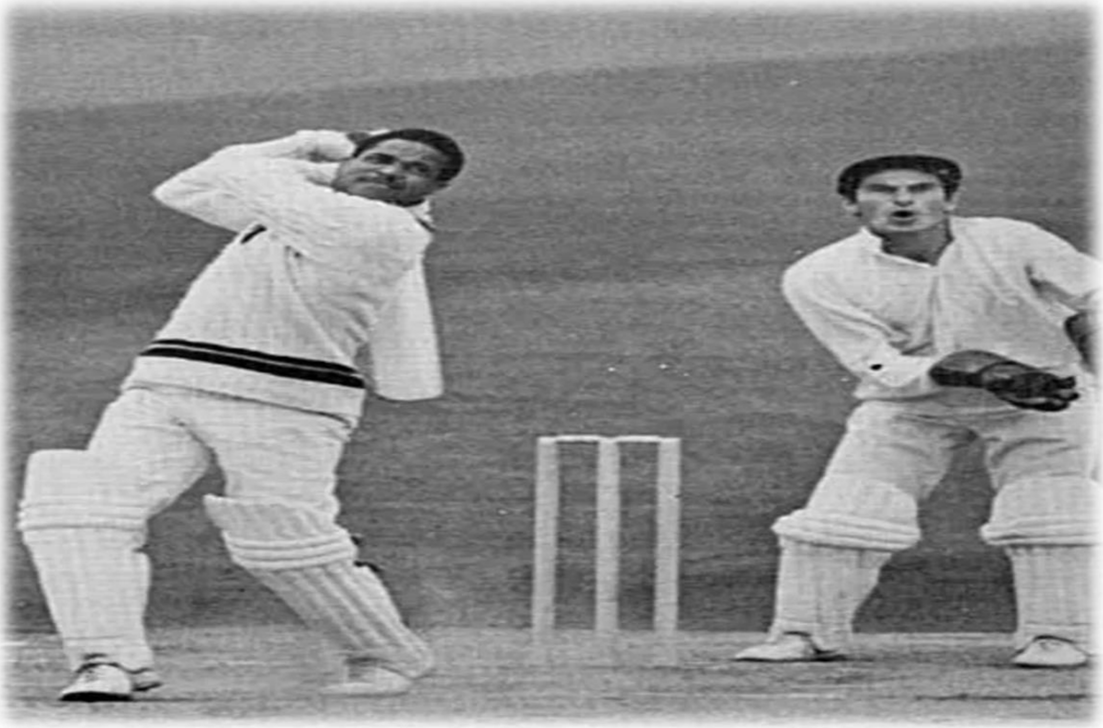


Garry Sobers is bowled by Peter Lever for 79· Aug 15, 1970



Garry Sobers on his way to 183 against England· May 31, 1970

Garry Sobers is bowled by Ray Illingworth for 80· Jul 18, 1970



Garry Sobers bludgeons Illingworth for another four· Jun 12, 1969

Bill Lawry and Garry Sobers with the Frank Worrell Trophy· Nov 30, 1968

Garry Sobers edges a catch to Colin Cowdrey at first slip· Mar 29, 1968

Garry Sobers receives the Rothman's Trophy• Sep 12, 1967

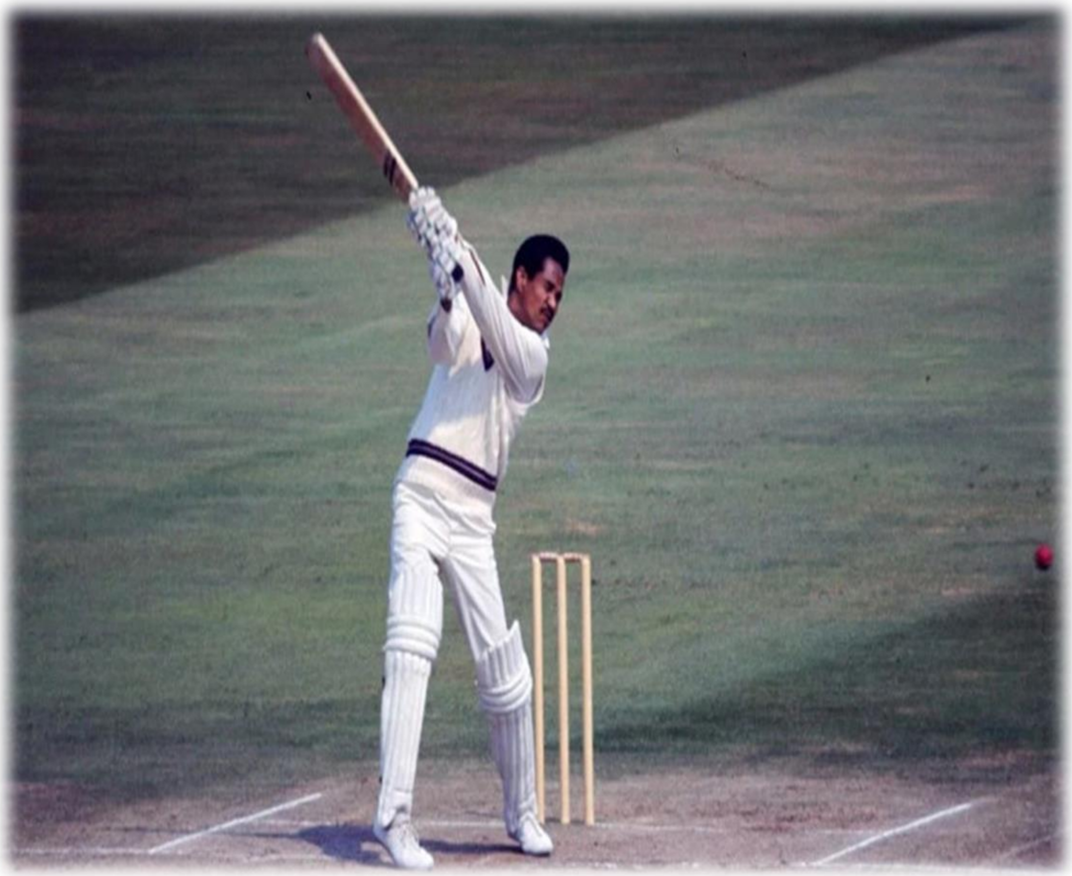
Garry Sobers bowls in a tour game in 1963• May 31, 1963

Garry Sobers sits behind the Wisden Trophy during a press reception• Nov 30, 1965

Part of the 1963 West Indies squad touring England• May 02, 1963

Antiques Trade Gazette :Six-sixes' auction saga continues as new footage of Gary Sobers interview is broadcast.

Gary Sobers Archives - Cricket Thrills



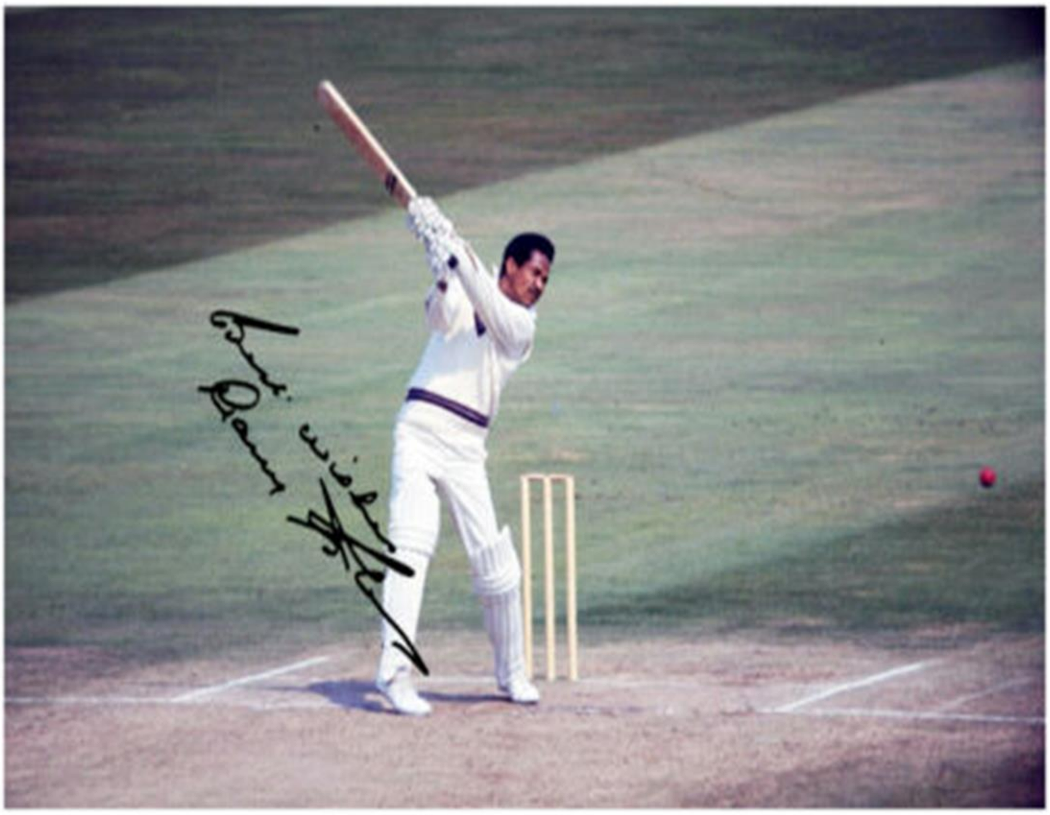
Biography Of Gary Sobers- Most Gifted All-Rounder Of All Time.

West Indies captain Gary Sobers (second r) leads his team out into the field at Lord's.

Sir Gary Sobers shares a laugfh with Farokh Engineer, Madhav Apte - The Economic Times.

Captain Cool never skippered Ananda but Sir Gary Sobers picked him.

Sir Garfield Sobers' remarkable coaching tenure at East Malvern.



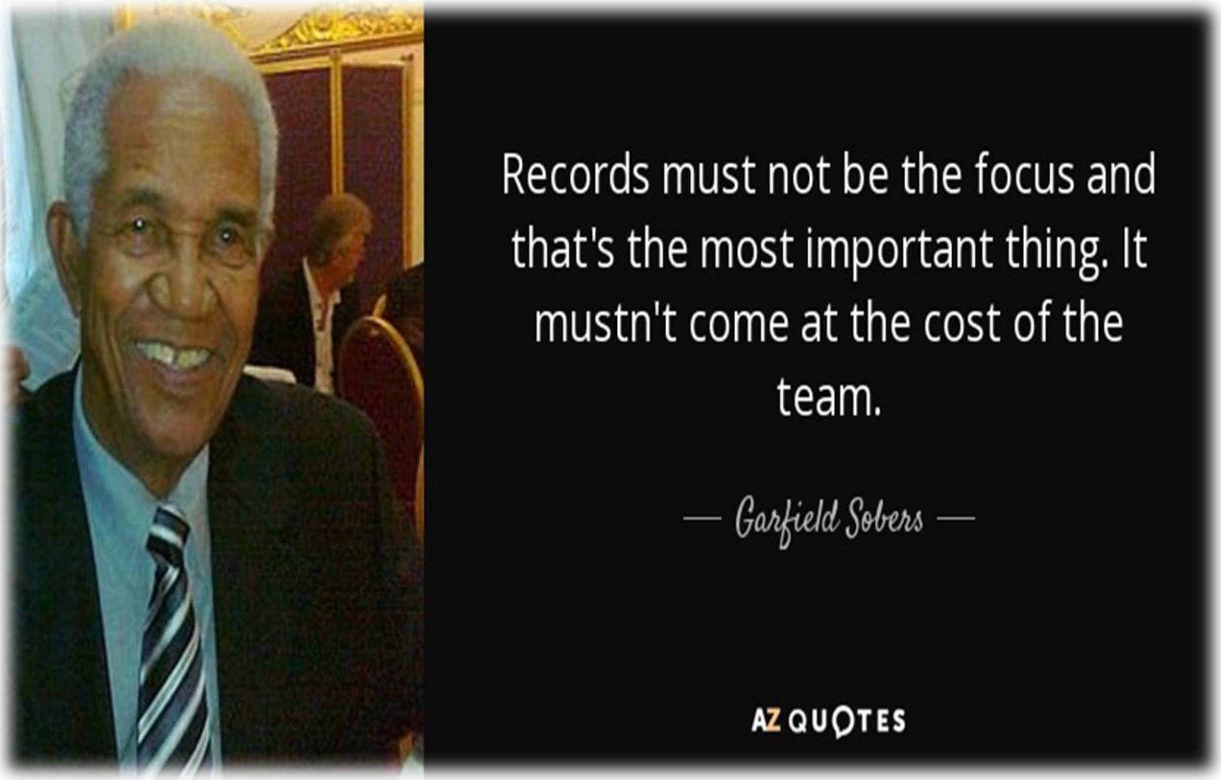
Garry Sobers A4 Signed Photo Print Autograph Cricket Gary Sir Garfield.

50 years ago: Sir Garfield Sobers' 254 and all that!

83-year-old Sir Gary Sobers shakes a leg to Bollywood song
at an Indian wedding in West Indies.

Adieus said to Tony Cozier | Barbados Advocate.

'It'll be sad for a lot of us': Sir Gary Sobers stumped over Barbados cutting ties with the Queen.




Garfield Sobers quote: Records must not be the focus and that's the most.

Virat Kohli relishes meeting Sir Garry Sobers.

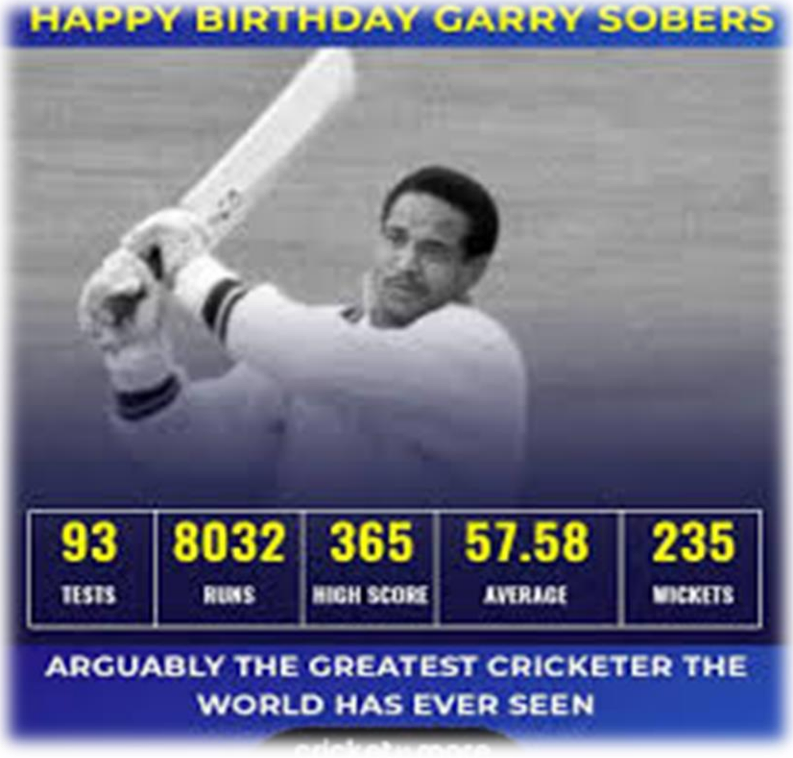
The Guyana Chronicle
National Hero Sobers in Cricket Hall of Fame

Philadelphia International Cricket Festival
Festival 1999 – Philadelphia International Cricket Festival

Australian Sports Museum
Photograph of Dr Rudi Webster, Sir Garfield Sobers &
Clive Lloyd with World Series Cricket Trophy

Ian Louis Harris
The Day Garfield Sobers Watched Me & Z/Yen Play Cricket, Lord's, 30 June 2009

Sachin Tendulkar Marks 1000th Instagram Post with Special Picture Alongside Sir Garfield Sobers.



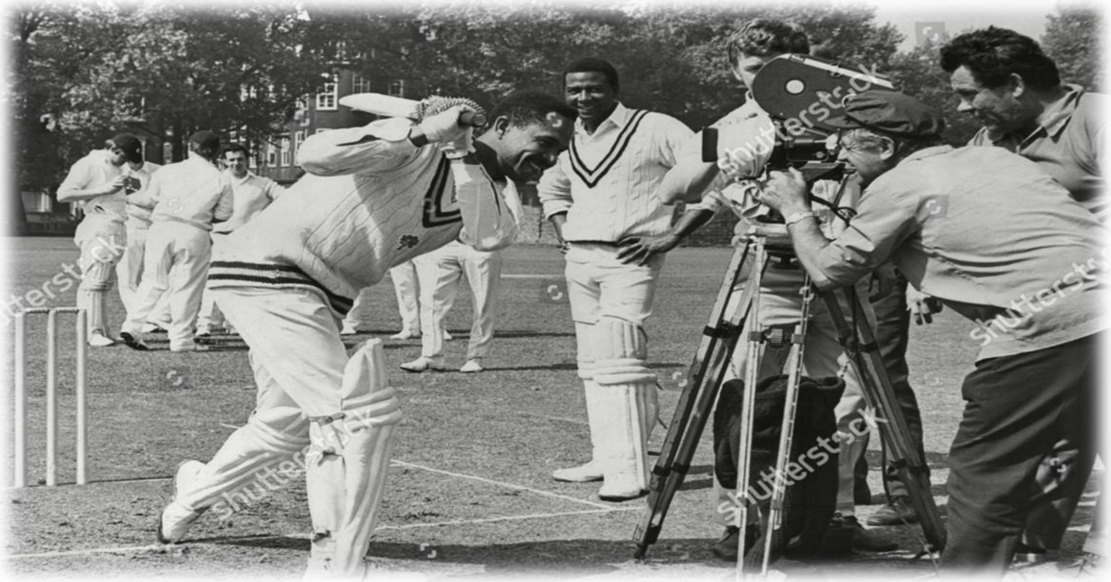

Cricketnmore - Happy Birthday Gary Sobers! | Facebook

Gary Sobers: Cricket's greatest genius - Rediff Cricket

West Indian Skipper Sir Gary Sobers Who Now Skippers Nottinghamshire Is Seen In His New Role As A Film Actor. He Is Pictured During The Shooting Of Scenes For 'two Gentlemen Sharing At Westminster School Cricket Ground. With Him Is Esther Anderson O.

Telugu Filmnagar
Tollywood Legendary Actor Sr NTR with West Indies Icon Cricket Player Sir Garry Sobers.

Gary Sobers with fellow Barbadian-born and facilitator Winston Weekes.

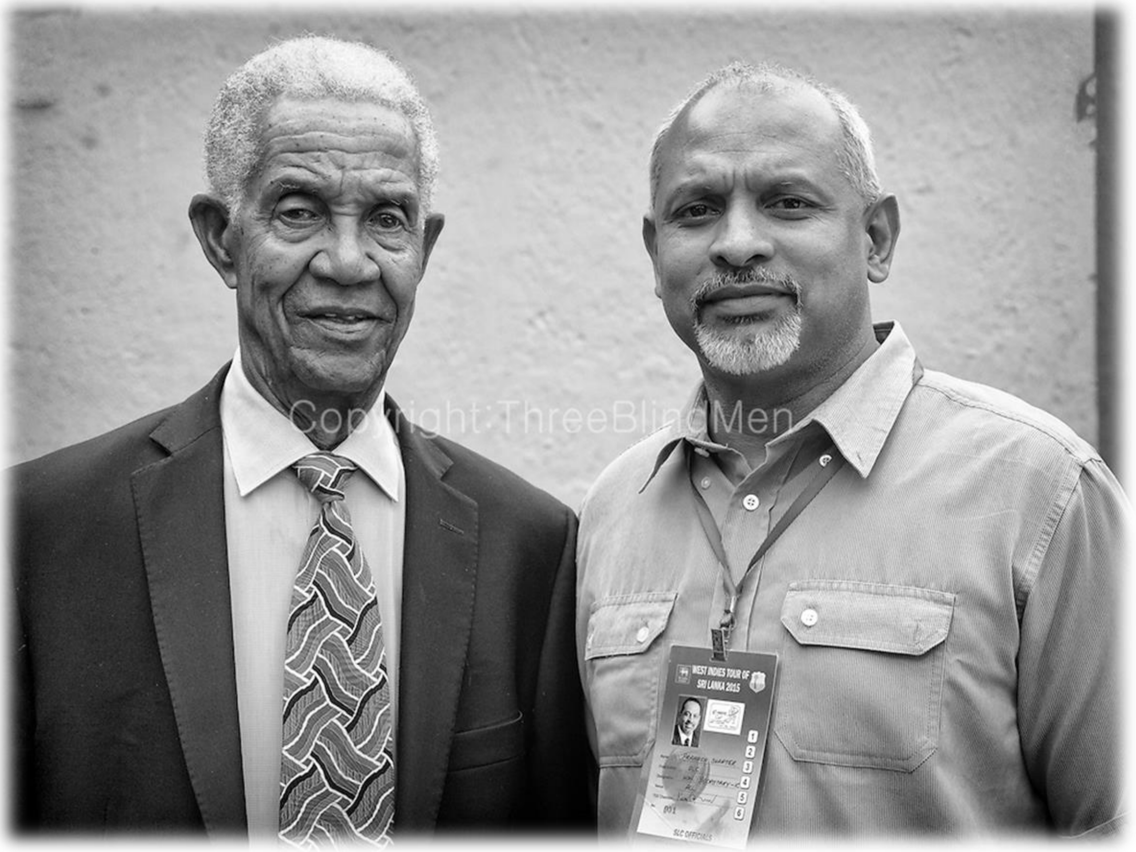


West Indian Skipper Sir Gary Sobers who now Skippers Nottinghamshire is seen in his New Role as A Film Actor. He Is Pictured During the Shooting of Scenes For 'two Gentlemen Sharing at Westminster School Cricket Ground Watching the Great Man is Amer.

Norton's Gary Sobers took five wickets in the Rothmans Cup final as they North Staffs and South Cheshire League beat the Yorkshire Cricket Council at Great Chell.

SpecialKidz
Peter Boos and Sir Gary Sobers « SpecialKidz International

Critiquing Cricket
Gary Sobers Arrives: bringing Bonhomie at Cricket & Everywhere | Critiquing Cricket




Sir Garry Sobers and Mr Prakash Schaffter at the Oval Cricket Ground, Colombo. October 25th 2015.

The Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers on the occasion of the launch of his new endeavour, the Sir Garry Sobers Foundation, dedicated to supporting young and under privileged cricketers.

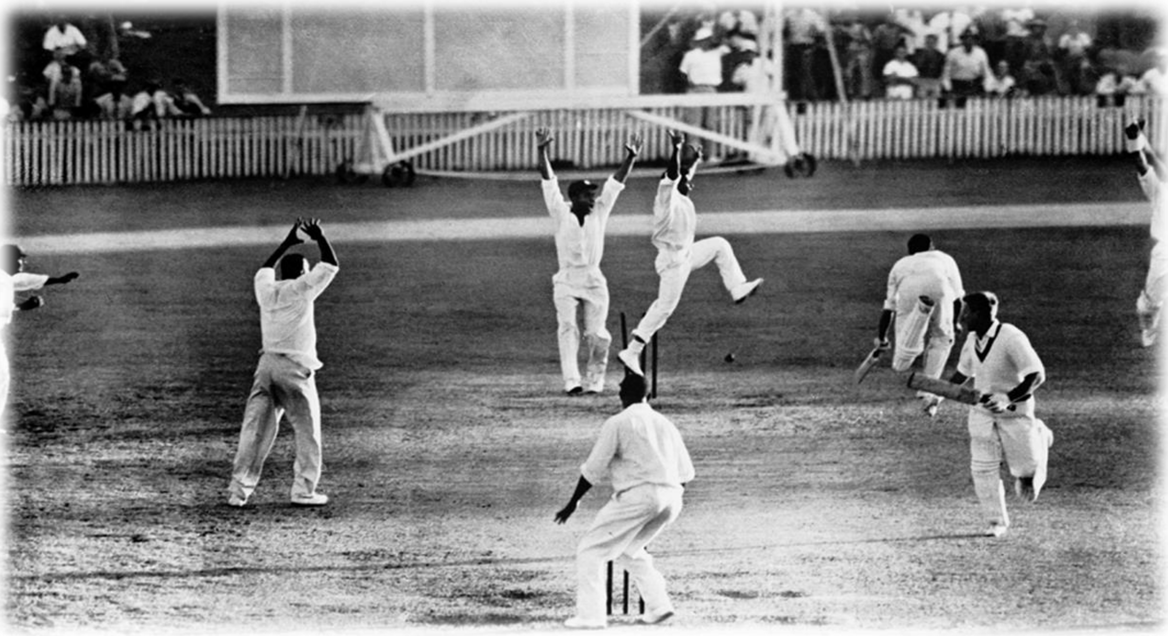
Cornish & Devon Post - UK.COM
West Indian legend Sobers visits Shebbear | thepost.uk.com

The Independent
Cricketing legend Sobers hails republican Barbados but will miss the Queen | The Independent

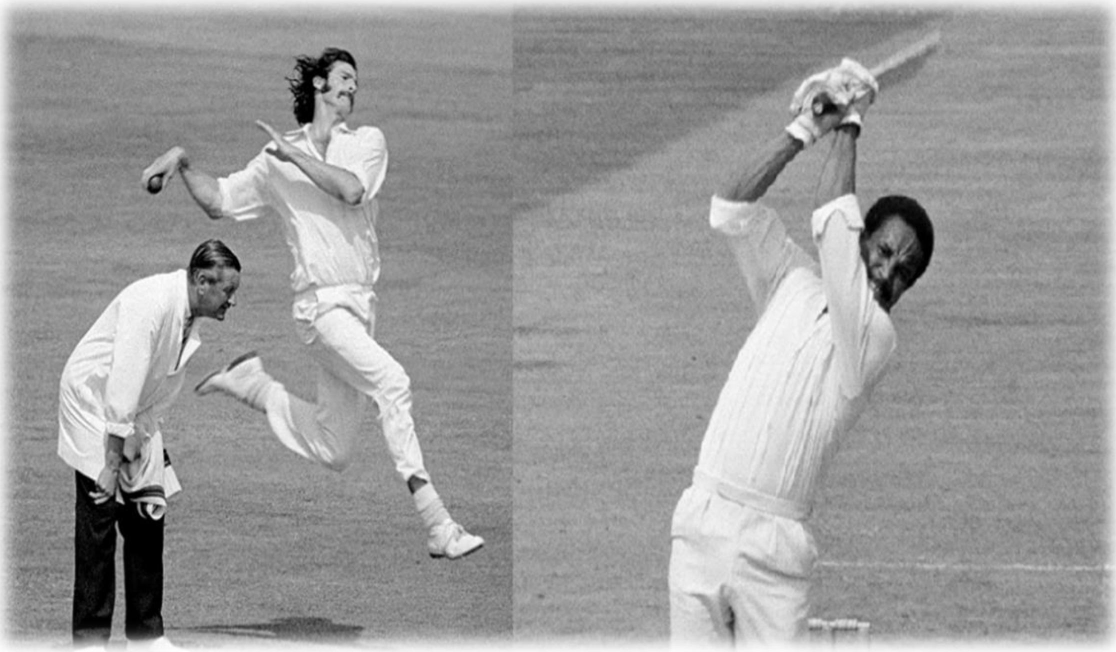
Wirral Globe
Pupils at a Wirral college receive a surprise visit from a cricket legend | Wirral Globe

Bradman Museum
Meeting Sir Garfield Sobers | The International Cricket Hall of Fame.

CODE Sports
Cricket news | Sir Garfield Sobers' remarkable coaching tenure at East Malvern | CODE Sports



The tied TEST !



A bowler and batsman going head-to-head at their peak:
Dennis Lillie and Gary Sobers

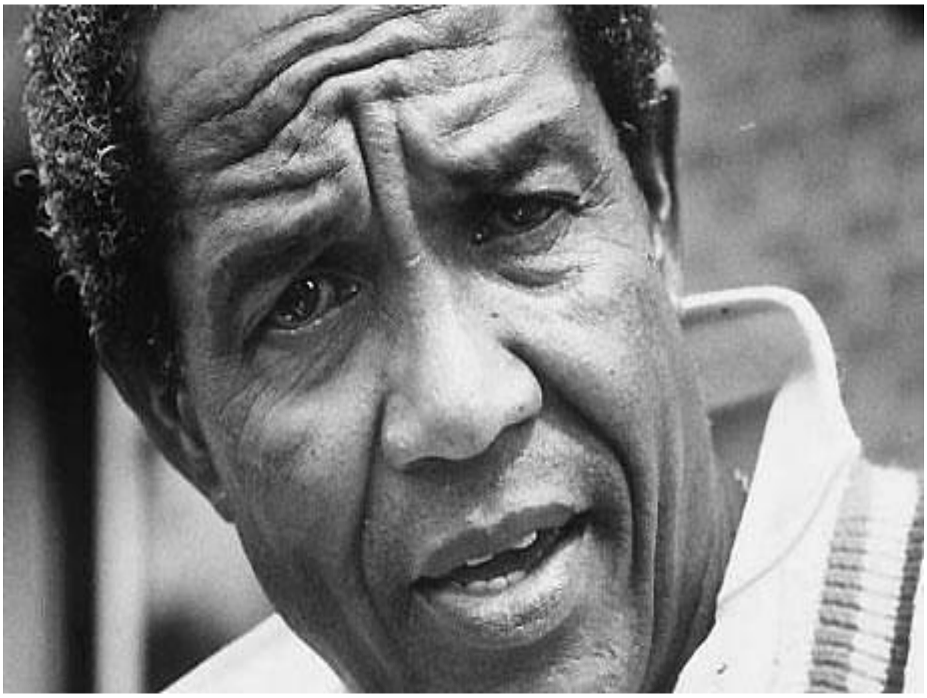
Sir Garfield Sobers was warmly welcomed to Taj Samudra, Colombo last afternoon by Resident Manager Ranil Perera and Director of Sales Parag Kathuria. Taj Samudra, Colombo is the host hotel for Sri Lanka Cricket.

In Kuala Lumpur, of all places, Garry Sobers ran through the hosts
with 5 wickets in 5 balls on March 28, 1964.

The greatest at work: Sir Gary Sobers; considered the finest cricketer ever; is seen bowling in Lieutenant-Governor's charity match at York University.
(Photo by Keith Beaty/Toronto Star via Getty Images)

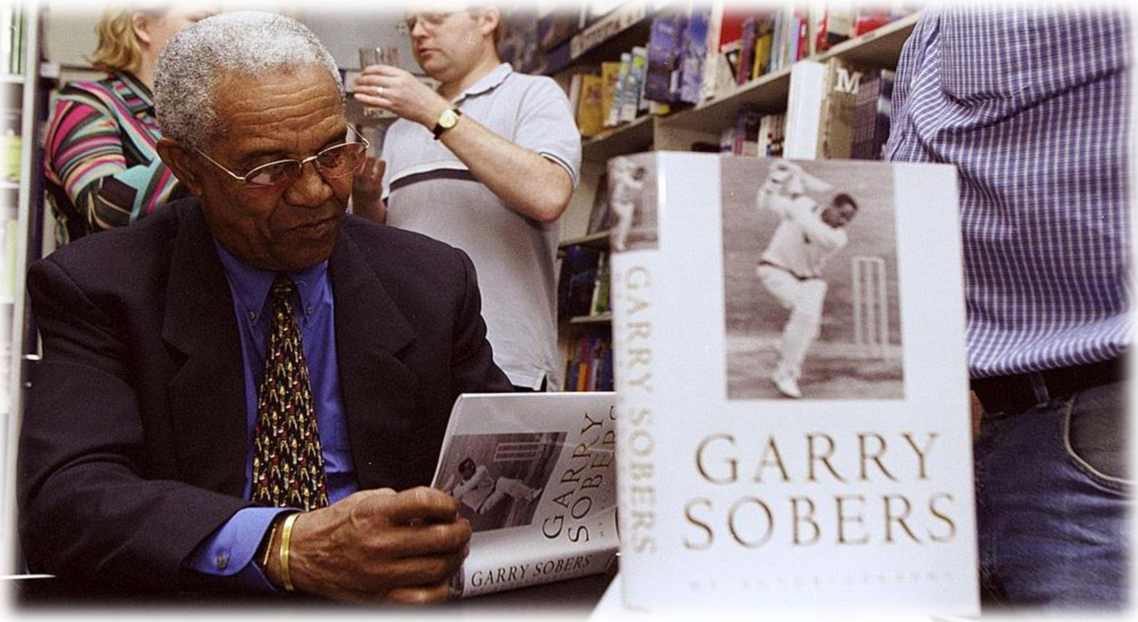
Garry Sobers on a film set in London in 1969, for a role in the British film "Two Gentlemen Sharing", in which he was a body double for American actor Hal Frederick, who was playing a cricket loving Jamaican.

Wisden
Sir Garfield Sobers: 'Touring India Was a Nightmare' | Wisden



Sir Garfield Sobers, better known as Gary Sobers, turned 81.
The legendary West Indian all-rounder is considered by many experts including the likes of Ian Chappell, Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri as the greatest cricketer ever. His record speaks for itself.

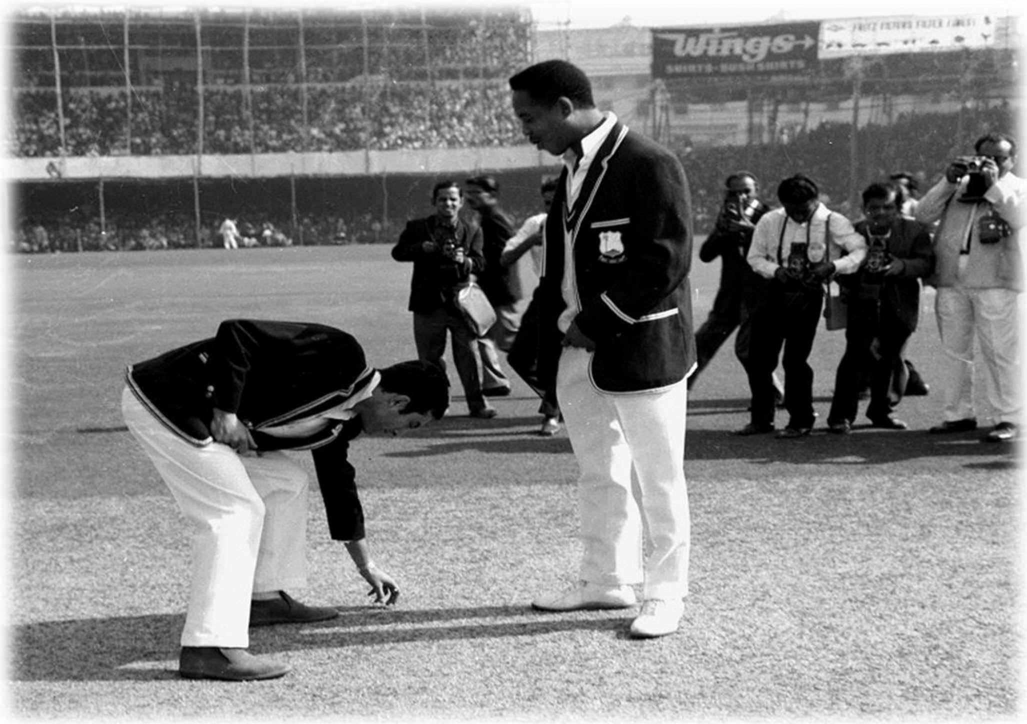
Cricket Country
Garry Sobers pays tribute to Muhammad Ali | Cricket Country.



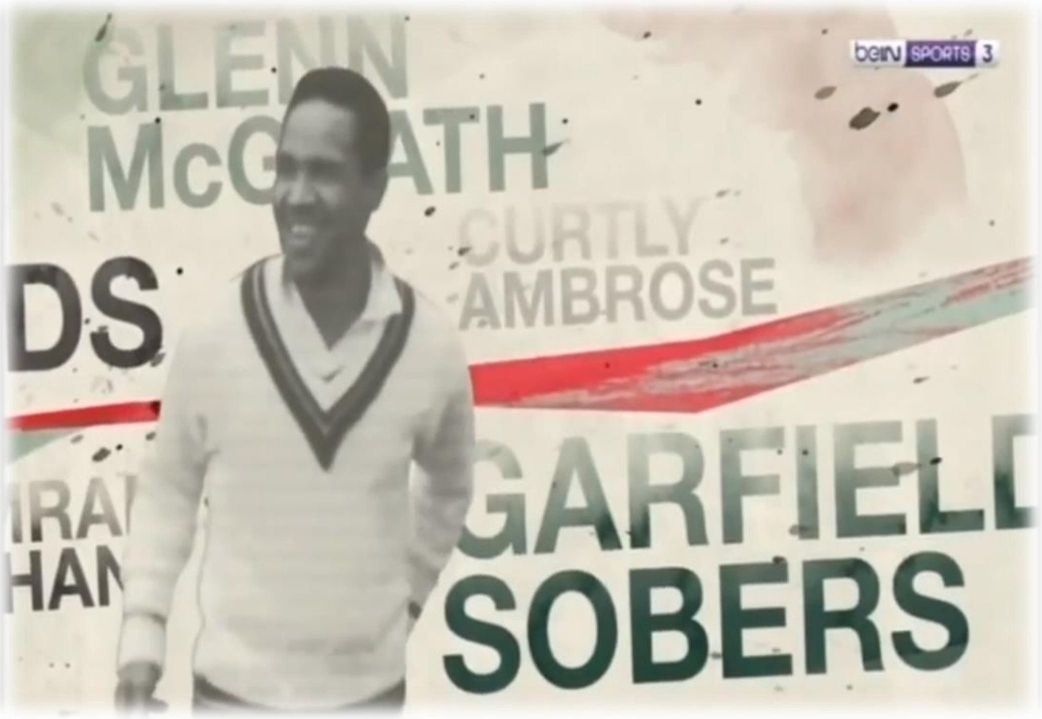

Sir Garry Sobers signs copies of his autobiography.

CLOSE TO 150 lucky English visitors are cherishing the opportunity of meeting and greeting Sir Garfield Sobers.

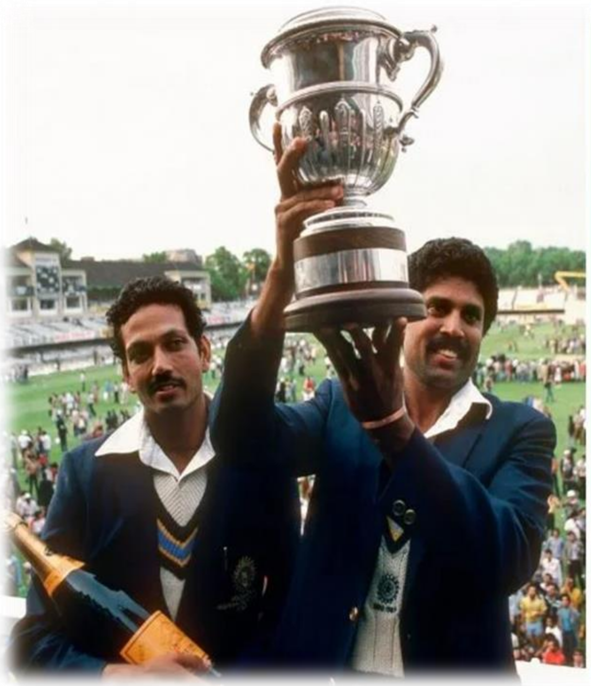
The global cricket legend hosted a special night of cricket nostalgia at the Sea Breeze Hotel on Monday night and the visitors were all guests of the south coast all-inclusive family resort.

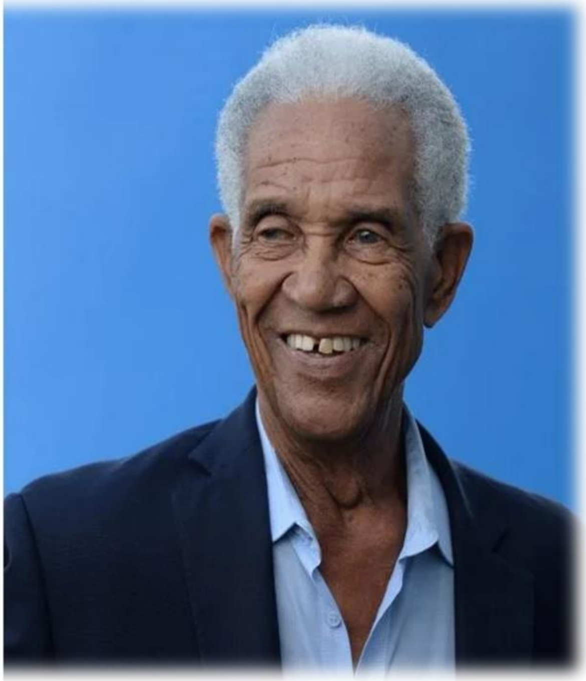



The romance of the toss in the 1960s: Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi
and Gary Sobers at Calcutta; January 1967.




IMDb
Cricket's Greatest" Garfield Sobers: West Indies (TV Episode) – IMDb

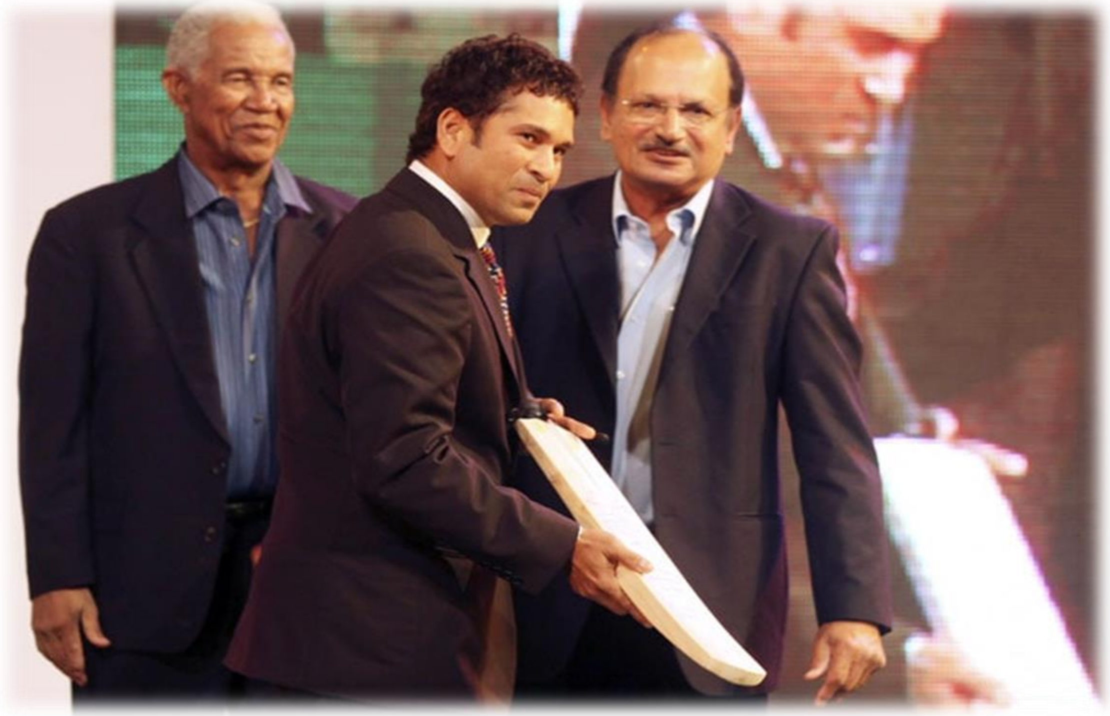




June 25, 2020 - 8:00am

Garry Sobers, the legendary West Indies all-rounder, had a hunch about India ahead of the 1983 World Cup, which India went on to win in a major upset.

Former West Indies cricketer Sir Garfield (Gary) Sobers, one of the finest all-rounders, is slated to visit India. He will unveil Dev Patel's upcoming Hollywood film, in which the actor essays the role of renowned Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, at a film festival in Goa this week.



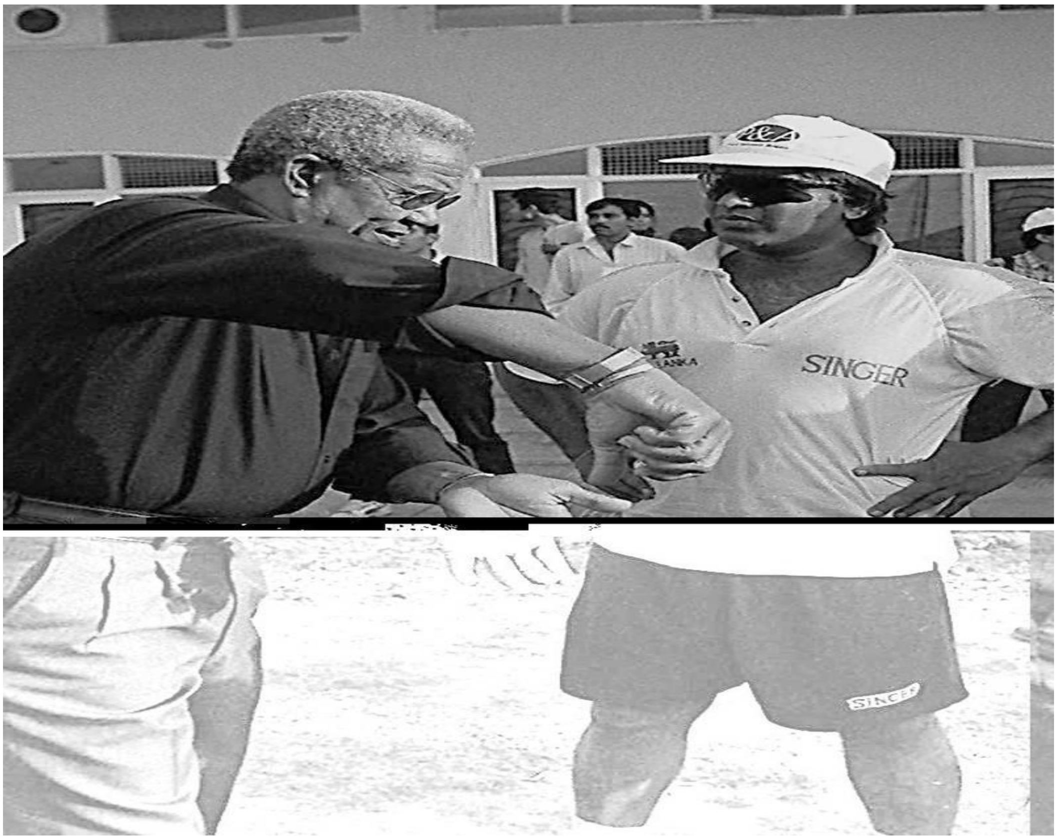
Sachin Tendulkar, centre, holds an autographed bat presented to him,
as former West Indies cricketer Gary Sobers, left, and former Indian cricketer
Ajit Wadekar watch, during an event in Mumbai.

Gary Sobers, still spinning the ball with familiar guile.

Telegraph India
Sir Gary Sobers - Roland Butcher's bats to cut batters' rough edges - Telegraph India

**His multiple Picture**
Sir Garfield St Aubrun Sobers, AO, OCC, also known as Gary or Garry Sobers, is a former cricketer who played for the West Indies between 1954 and 1974.

Walking out with Gary Sobers  walking out with Conard Hunte (left) to bat against Pakistan, 1958.

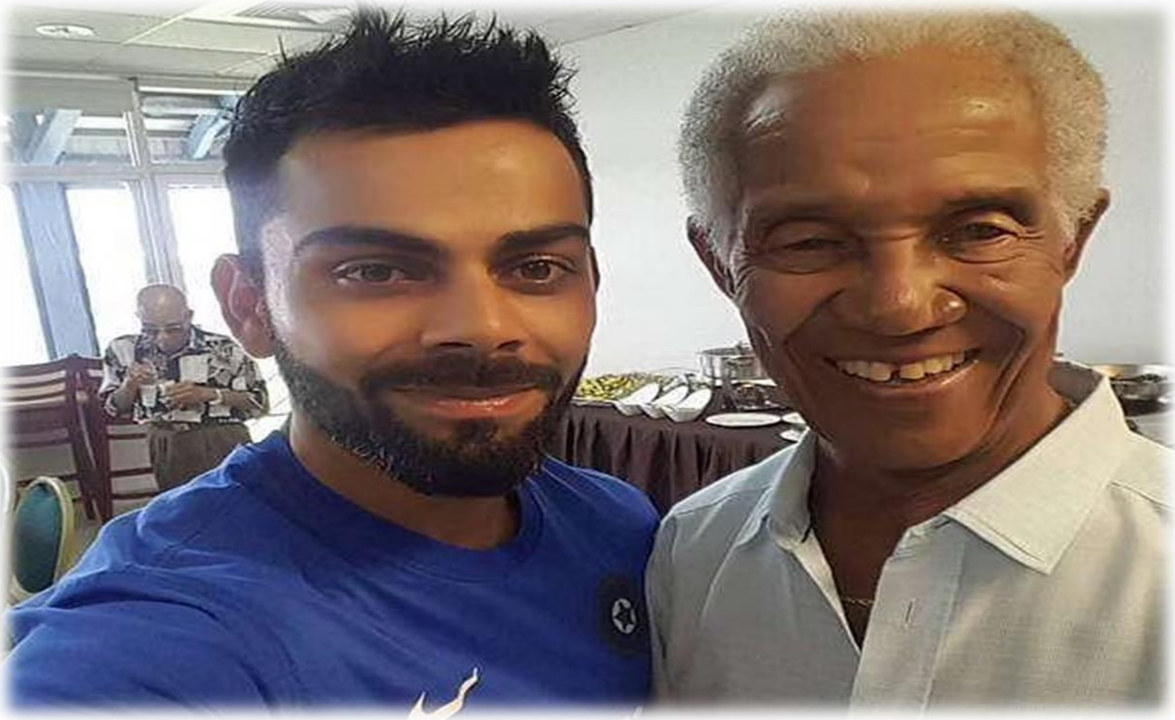



Former West Indian captain Sir Gary Sobers (left) gives a few tips to Arjuna Ranatunga of Sri Lanka 23 May on the eve of the first final to be played against Pakistan at the Mohali cricket stadium in Chandigarh.

NGLAND – JUNE 12: West Indies bowler Garry Sobers in bowling action during a tour match in England circa 1966 in England.

Conrad Hunte and Gary Sobers of the West Indies earned 446 runs against Pakistan in 1957.

Sir Garfield Sobers is in Awe of Virat Kohli's Brilliance.



Virat Kohli savours meeting with Gary Sobers and other West Indian legends.

Sir Garry Sobers (captain of the West Indies 1965-1972) gives us his thoughts on captaincy, handling players and leadership. Perhaps there is some food for thought.

Sir Garfield Sobers: if you could watch only one batsman,
it would be him | Cricket | The Guardian

Antiques Trade Gazette
Six-sixes' auction saga continues as new footage of Gary Sobers interview is broadcast.

Beautiful Barbados - Happy Birthday Sir Garfield Sobers. Today, Cricket Legend and National Hero of Barbados, Sir Garfield celebrates his 77th birthday.

Mancunian Matters
Interview: 'Barbados must be grumbling now' – Sir Garfield Sobers chats Joffre Archer and flying the island's flag - Mancunian Matters

South West Londoner
I'd chose test cricket over T20 if I was playing today, says West Indies legend Sir Garry Sobers | South West Londoner

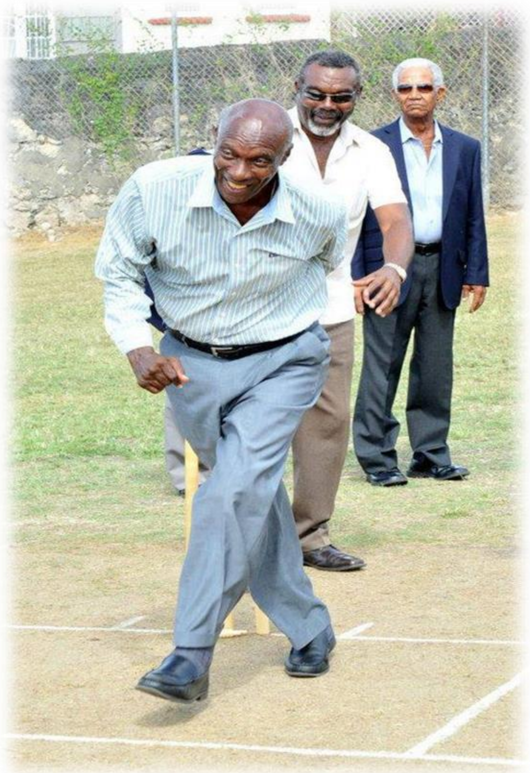
West Indies Cricket
Sir Garfield Sobers celebrates 85 not out | Windies Cricket news

Sport Photo Gallery
Captains Brian Close & Gary Sobers England v West Indies
1966 Images | Cricket Posters

Cricket365
LISTEN: Cricket Badger Podcast with Sir Garfield Sobers - Cricket365

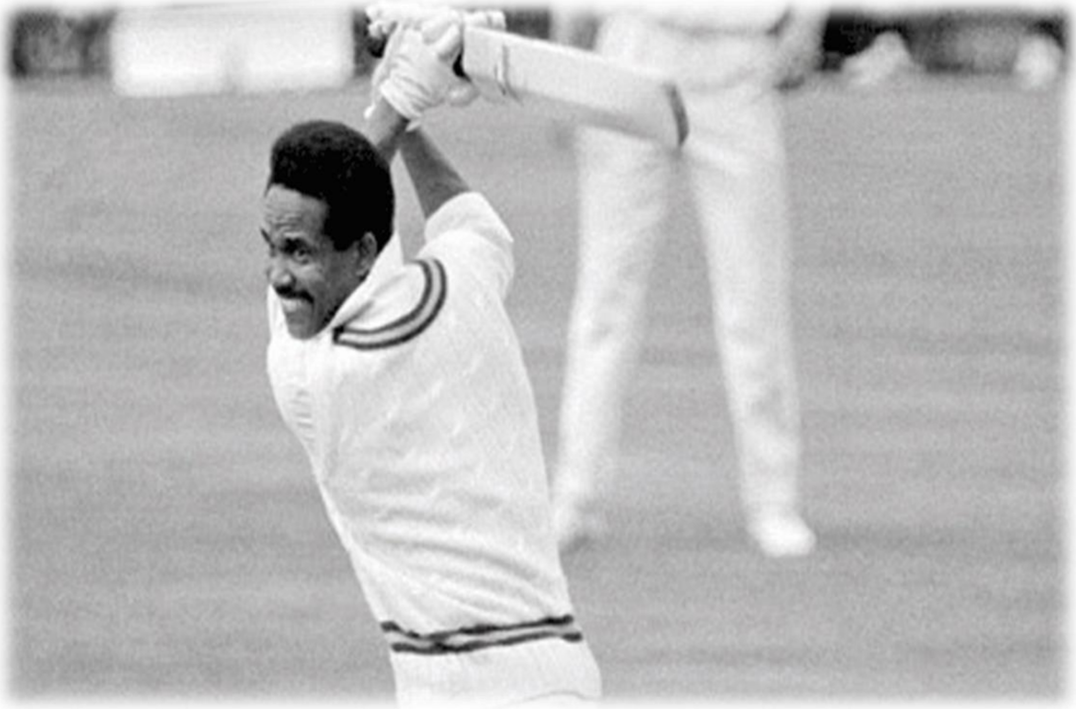
Wisden
Sir Garfield Sobers: Cricket's Finest All-Round Player | Wisden Almanack

West Indian Skipper Sir Gary Sobers Who Now Skippers Nottinghamshire ss Seen in His New Role as a Film Actor. He is Pictured During the shooting of scenes for 'two Gentlemen Sharing at Westminster School Cricket Ground'. With him is Esther Anderson one of the stars of the film.



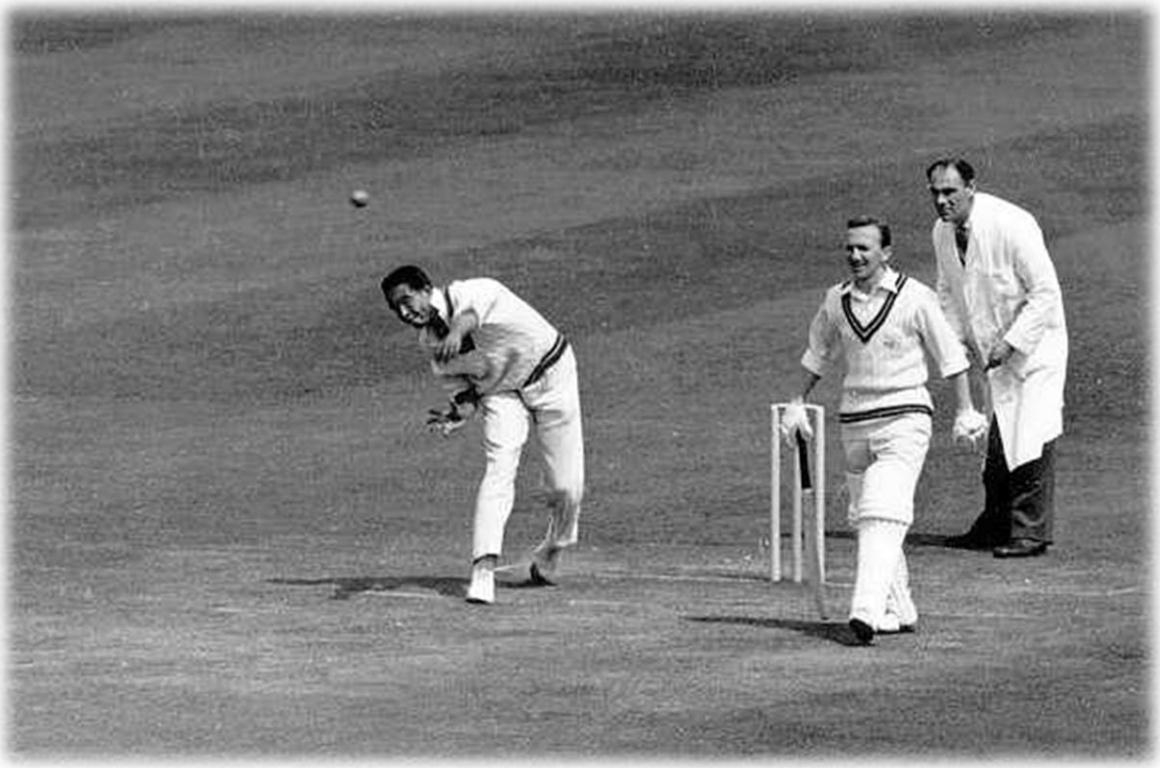
Our Cricket Legends of Barbados, Wes Hall, Sir Gary Sobers and Charlie Griffith...
From the looks of it, Sir Wes still got it.

Fox Sports
Garry Sobers century at Lord's, batting with a hangover



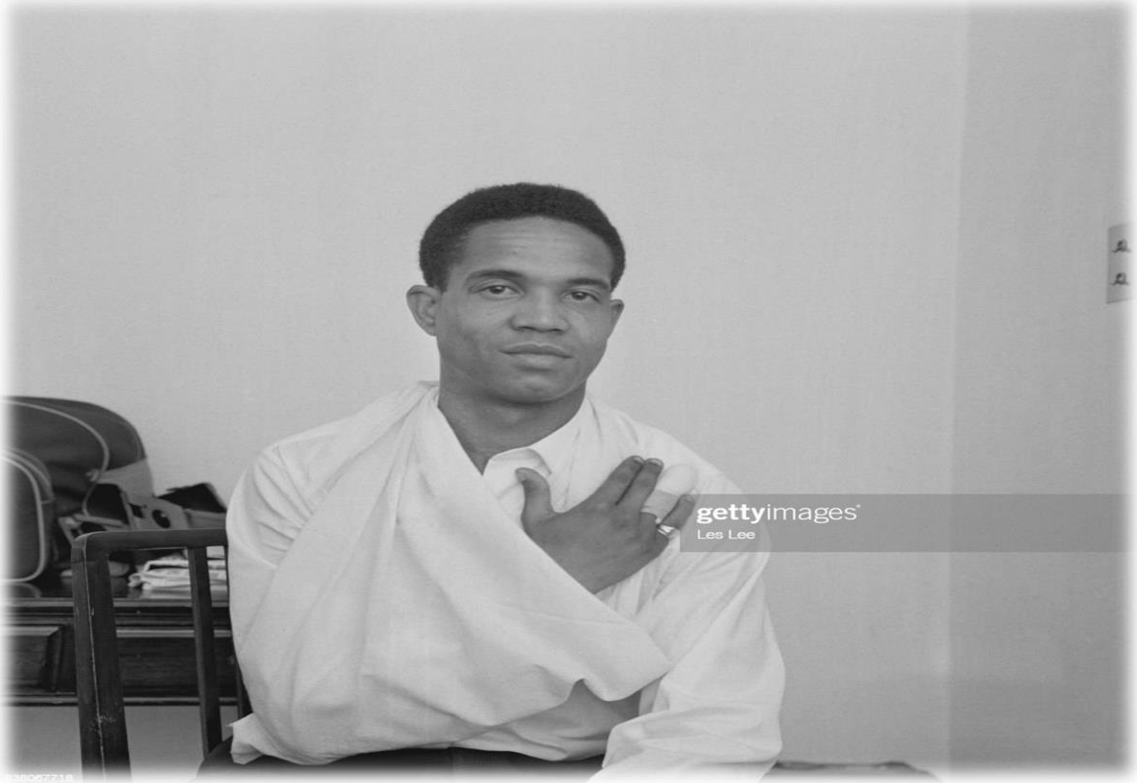
Sport360
On this day: August 5, 1966 – Garry Sobers smashes a century in one session

Cricket Thrills
Sir Garry Sobers Played Cricket for Yorkshire - Cricket Thrills



Sportskeeda
SK Flashback: Garry Sobers makes his debut against England at Kingston

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - MARCH 19: Prince Charles, Prince of Wales speaks with West Indies' cricket legend Garfield Sobers during a reception at the Prime Minister's residence during their Caribbean tour on March 19, 2019 in Bridgetown, Barbados. The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall are visiting a number countries as part of their Caribbean Tour, including a historic visit to Cuba.




Barbados born cricketer, and captain of the West Indies cricket team, Garfield Sobers pictured with his arm in a sling following an injury, 23rd July 1963.

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - JANUARY 19: Former West Indies cricketer Sir Garfield Sobers during net practice at Kensington Oval on January 19, 2019 in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Mike Procter of Gloucestershire and South Africa is presented with the Reg Hayter Cup by West Indies' cricketer Garry Sobers at Edgbaston, Birmingham, July 1970. The award was introduced in 1970 for the Players' Player of the Year. Procter and Sobers were playing for Rest of the World during a five-match series against England.

All ten West Indies fielders crowd around the bat as Bernard Julien of West Indies bowls to Derek Underwood of England during the 3rd Test match between England and West Indies at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, 27th August 1973. The non-striking batsman for England is Keith Fletcher and the West Indies fielders are (from left) Alvin Kallicharran (leg gully), Roy Fredericks (short leg), Vanburn Holder (leg slip), Deryck Murray (wicketkeeper), Rohan Kanhai (1st slip), Garry Sobers (2nd slip), Lance Gibbs (silly point), Keith Boyce (3rd slip), Maurice Foster and Clive Lloyd. West Indies won the match by an innings and 226 runs.

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - JANUARY 23 : Sir Garfield Sobers applauds as John Campbell receives his first test cap before the first Test match between England and the West Indies at Kensington Oval on January 23, 2019 in Bridgetown, Barbados.

# Important Web Links

*Following is some of the selected Web Links which would provide some more important/critical/useful information about Gary Sobers, his performance, biography and other unique features.*

Please visit these to know more him!

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

01] https://www.britannica.com/biography/Garfield-Sobers

02] https://www.onmanorama.com/sports/vantage-point/2022/07/31/column-garry-sobers-arguably-the-greatest-all-rounder.html

03] https://www.cricketcountry.com/articles/garry-sobers-annihilates-australia-with-a-merciless-254-21568

04] https://www.thecricketmonthly.com/story/347280/drunk-on-sobers

05] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garfield_Sobers

06] https://www.espncricinfo.com/player/garry-sobers-52946

07] https://www.cricbuzz.com/profiles/4160/sir-garry-sobers

08] https://www.sportskeeda.com/cricket/sir-garfield-sobers-five-in-one-cricketer

09] https://wisden.com/almanack/sir-garfield-sobers-crickets-finest-all-round-player-almanack

10] https://www.cricketcountry.com/players/garry-sobers/

11] https://www.icc-cricket.com/rankings/mens/player-rankings/17249

12] https://www.onmanorama.com/sports/vantage-point/2022/07/31/column-garry-sobers-arguably-the-greatest-all-rounder.html

13] https://www.cricketcountry.com/articles/west-indies-in-india-a-brief-test-history-1948-1983-751240

14] https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/sir-garfield-sobers-5431.php

15] https://www.cricketnmore.com/cricket-legends/biography-of-gary-sobers-most-gifted-all-rounder-of-all-time-68277

16] https://www.cricbuzz.com/profiles/4160/sir-garry-sobers

17] https://www.thecricketmonthly.com/story/1027587/the-man-who-could-do-everything

18] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FeMcAuA5GM&ab_channel=Lord%27sCricketGround

19] https://archive.acscricket.com/famous_cricketers/42/

20] https://acscricket.com/
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

21] http://cricmash.com/biographies/2015/1/26/garry-sobers-the-greatest-all-round-cricketer-of-all-time

# Sobers' Quotes

*Some selected Quotes in respect of his ideas, opinions, views, thinking, comments, and thoughts are provided here for the readers to help themselves to enjoy more!*

(😊)(😊)(😊)(😊)(😊)

It's good to draw spectators to the grounds, but I don't think Twenty20 will help you produce good Test cricketers.

~~~

*Only men like Imran Khan, Kapil Dev and Ian Botham can be branded all-rounders.*

~~~

One of the things about the six sixes, which really comes over me every time somebody asks a question or says to me, 'I've just seen them,' or people always ask me about it... It makes me feel that's the only thing I've ever done in the history of cricket.

~~~

**My whole obligation was to West Indies cricket. As I have always said, I have never made a run for me. Records meant nothing. The team was important.**

~~~

When I played cricket for the West Indies, I never worried. I never really watched anyone else. I had a job to do, and I tried to do it to the best of my ability.

~~~

Until we can get people who are willing to play for West Indies in the right way, I think that we're going to be struggling for a long time.

~~~

If you take five wickets, someone has to take the catches. If you score a hundred, someone has to be there with you. You haven't done it individually. Some contributions may be small, but they are still tangible. You have to look at it from a team point of view. When you start looking at it as an individual, then you have no team.

~~~

If you are going to raise youngsters for Test cricket that don't have the experience, you can't stick them into T20. You've got to teach them first how to play Test cricket, and when they're good enough for Test cricket and if they want to play both formats, then they can.

~~~

There are a plenty of shots that I have been amazed by, but a lot of these shots are played because you have worn an iron mask. Take away the protection, and let me see if they play them. Don't forget that the past players did not have any protection.

~~~
~~~

In cricket, there is a lot of psychology in the game, especially if you are watching people who are not top-class.

~~~

The great all-rounders were not considered part-timers in one particular department. They could turn games at any stage and on any surface.

~~~

*I don't think cricket is a game that people who have never played or been involved in understand the excitement. It's a game that is full of excitement, because cricket lovers follow the game and understand the basic principles and rules. They become connoisseurs of the game.*

~~~

People call me a genius. I don't know much about geniuses. But I do believe that what I achieved was not just because of the ability that I was born with but also because I worked hard.

~~~

**If I am talking to a youngster, I coach him what I feel is best for him to bowl, how to hold the ball, how to bowl certain things, and how to bowl to certain batsmen, how to position himself. I never talk to them about the rules.**

~~~
~~~

Australia is always a place that is dear to me; it is always my second home, and I try to get there as often as I can, but it is not next door, you know.

~~~

To me, Shane Warne is a great turner of the ball. I like his aggressive attitude, I love the way he attacks batsmen, and I give him 100 per cent for that, as not enough spinners bowl with that approach, but in my estimation, Subhash Gupte was a better leg-spinner.

~~~

*T20 is good entertainment. It is a game you need. People go to watch it. You have to be careful how far you let it go.*

~~~

I have so many fond memories of the Tied Test, and I can't wait to come back to Brisbane. One thing that stands out is that both teams stayed at the same hotel. We got to know each other so well. Some of my best cricketing friends were in that Australian team.

~~~

West Indian cricket means so much to people who live here. And when we're not doing well, we all feel it.

~~~

In the 1950s, when we went to Lord's, you had to sit down, and it was very prim and proper. It was only in the 1960s when we started to do well that West Indians started voicing their opinions.

~~~

I enjoyed playing any type of cricket. Didn't matter what type it was because I did not want to change my game. My game was built on one type of cricket: if there was a ball to hit, you hit it, whether it was Test matches, whatever it was.

~~~

In the early days, when I first got into the WI team, when the Ws were playing, I would sit and watch. When you could learn from watching players like that, it was a great joy to watch them play.

~~~

**A COACH SHOULD BE A PERSON WHO IS ABLE TO HELP A PLAYER MENTALLY.**

~~~

My whole obligation was to West Indies cricket. As I have always said, 'I have never made a run for me.

~~~

When I look at someone like Andrew Symonds, I see a player who has done phenomenally well with the bat, as his record shows. He certainly has the ability to be a very good all-rounder, but I think to be a great one, you need to be able to turn a game with the bat or the ball.

~~~

I love India. I love to visit the country.

~~~

Don't worry too much on pathways programs: good players find a way to get through to play for their country.

~~~
~~~

I only played to the best of my ability and with passion. Call it what you will.

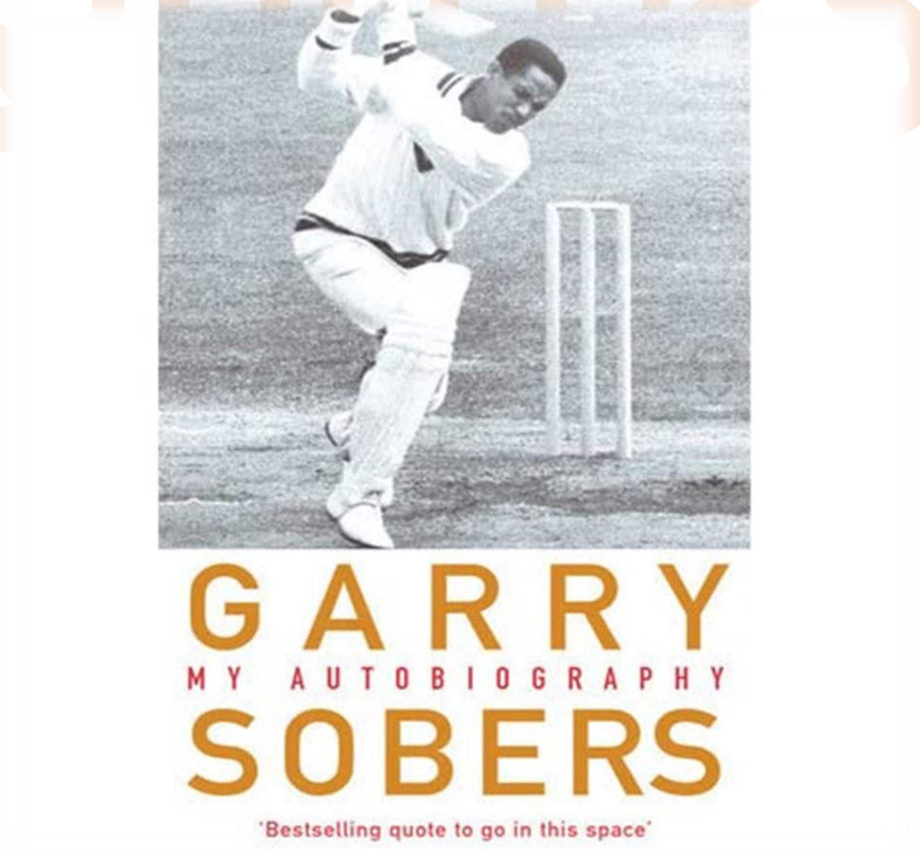
~~~

Barbados has some of the toughest par threes in the world. Some golfers are intimidated by having to drive over ravines and water hazards.

~~~

*I learned to bat and bowl on different pitches and knew when to go hard and when to back off. It was just something I learned.*

~~~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# Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy

International Cricket Council had formed a Committee consisting of three members: Richie Benaud, Sunil Gavaskar and Michael Holding and asked them to propose a name of an individual in whose name the Trophy may be constituted. The committee had unanimously suggested the name of Sir Garfield Sobers.

Thereafter, Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy has been formed and decided that the TROPHY will be awarded annually by ICC to the ICC Men's cricketer of the year. It is considered to be the most appreciative and prestigious award and the first award was given in the year 2004.

The recipient of the annual award is selected by an "academy" of 56 individuals (expanded from 50 in 2004), including the current national team captains of the Test-playing nations (10), members of the elite panel of ICC umpires and referees (18), and certain prominent former players and cricket correspondents (28).
In the event of a tie in the voting, the award is shared.

The following is the list of awardees:

| Year | Country | Name of the Awardee | Photo |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | India | Rahul David | |
| 2005 | South Africa | Jacques Kallis | |
| | England | Andrew Flintoff | |
| 2006 2007 | Australia | Ricky Ponting | |
| 2008 | West Indies | Shivnarine Chandrapaul | |
| 2009 | Australia | Mitchell Johnson | |
| 2010 | India | Sachin Tendulkar | |
| 2011 | England | Jonathan Trott | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | Sri Lanka | Kumar Sangakkara | |
| 2013 | Australia | Michael Clarke | |
| 2014 | Australia | Mitchell Johnson | |
| 2015 | Australia | Steve Smith | |
| 2016 | India | Ravichandran Ashwin | |
| 2017<br>2018 | India | Virat Kohli | |
| 2019 | England | Ben Stokes | |
| 2020 | No award due to Covid-19 Pandemic | | |
| 2021 | Pakistan | Shaheen Afridi | |

# Awards

## GARRY SOBERS CAREER STATISTICS

### Test Debut

West Indies v England at Sabina Park, Kingston, March 30, 1954

### Last Test

West Indies v England at Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain, March 30, 1974

### ODI Debut

England v West Indies at Headingley, Leeds, September 5, 1973

### Last ODI

England v West Indies at Headingley, Leeds, September 5, 1973

The greatest all-rounder that the game of cricket ever saw, Sir Gary Sobers would perhaps come second just to Sir Don in terms of stature and legacy.

Bradman himself called this superlative West Indian the "**five-in-one cricketer**", and with good reason: apart from being an outstanding batsman and fielder, Sobers the bowler was so versatile that he could bowl three different styles - left-arm seam and swing, slow left-arm orthodox, and left-arm wrist spin.

He made his first-class debut in 1952, against the then touring India. The 16-year-old impressed the selectors with his consistent line and length and the figures of 22-5-50-4 and 67-35-92-3 and earned his Test debut two years later against England.

## Some of the Major Awards

### [A] *WISDEN* CRICKETER OF THE YEAR:

The Wisden Cricketers of the Year are cricketers selected for the honour by the annual publication Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, based primarily on their "influence on the previous English season". The award began in 1889 with the naming of "Six Great Bowlers of the Year", and continued with the naming of "Nine Great Batsmen of the Year" in 1890 and "6 Great Wicket-Keepers" in 1891.

From 2000 to 2003 the award was made based on players' impact on cricket worldwide rather than just the preceding season in England, but the decision was reversed in 2004 with the introduction of a separate Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World award.

Sir Garfield Sobers was honoured with this Award in 1964!

**********

## [B] Wetherell Award for the Leading All-Rounder

The origins of The Wetherell Award date from when out of the blue The Cricket Society was contacted by a Solicitor, Roger Cronin, who explained that his cousin, Rex Wetherell had left a substantial bequest in his Will to The Cricket Society. Rex Wetherell, a Member of The Cricket Society, who had lived abroad for some time had developed a special affinity with Cricketing-All-Rounders. He wanted The Cricket Society to utilise a complicated formula to establish annually the best All-Rounders in the previous season at different levels, ie. First Class Cricket and Schools.

Hence the advent of The Wetherell Trophy. The Trophy was designed by the leading Silversmith, Toye Kenning, whose Chief Designer was fortunately a cricket lover.

Sir Garfield Sobers was honoured with this Award in 1970!

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## [C] Walter Lawrence Trophy

The trophy was instituted in 1934 by Sir Walter Lawrence, a builder and cricket enthusiast from Hertfordshire, the first recipient being Frank Woolley. At this stage in its history, the criterion was the time taken to score a hundred rather than the number of balls faced. The award was made every season up to and including 1939 when Lawrence died. When first class cricket resumed in 1945 after the Second World War, Lawrence's son Guy left the presentation of the Trophy in abeyance. It was finally re-instated by Guy's son-in-law, Brian Thornton for the 1966 season. The recipient was then the player who had scored the fastest England Test century in terms of balls faced, at home or away, in the calendar year. The 1970 award was made to Geoffrey Boycott for "the most meritorious innings of the England v The Rest of the World series", but in 1971 the original version of the award was restored. Since 1985, the trophy has been decided in terms of balls faced rather than minutes spent at the crease.

Sir Garfield Sobers was honoured with this Award in 1974!

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## [D] *WISDEN* CRICKETER OF THE CENTURY

The Wisden Cricketers of the Century are five cricketers who were judged to be the most prominent players of the 20th century, as selected by a 100-member panel of cricket experts appointed by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack in 2000. The 97 men and three women on the panel were each given five votes with which to select the list. In order of votes, the five Wisden Cricketers of the Century are:

01] Don Bradman (100 votes)
02) Garfield Sobers (90 votes)
03) Jack Hobbs (30 votes)
04) Shane Warne (27 votes)
05) Viv Richards (25)

## [E] *WISDEN* LEADING CRICKETERS OF THE WORLD

The ***Wisden* Leading Cricketer in the World** is an annual cricket award selected by *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*. It was established in 2004, to select the best cricketer based upon their performances anywhere in the world in the previous calendar year. A notional list of previous winners, spanning from 1900 to 2002, was published in the 2007 edition of *Wisden*.

In the 2007 edition of Wisden, a list of winners for previous years was published. A sixteen-person panel helped to select the winners, which Engel described as the cricketer that "would have been the first name down in the World XI to play Mars". It was decided that the first year that would be listed was 1900, as prior to that Engel claimed international cricket was too "inchoate and haphazard to make comparison sensible". No awards were made for the periods of the World Wars, leaving a list of 93 winners. During this selection, Don Bradman was listed the most, winning on ten occasions, while Garfield Sobers was the leading cricketer eight times. Engel noted that despite attempts to the contrary, the award maintains cricket's bias towards batsmen

Sir Garfield Sobers had received this accolade eight times, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968 & 1970!.

## [F] *WISDEN* CRICKETERS' ALMANACK – 150TH ANNIVERSARY

In what is sure to create fierce debate within the cricket community, Wisden Cricketers' Almanack has created their all-time Test World XI to mark the 150th anniversary.

Wisden has named Don Bradman as their captain of the team that consists of one other Australian, four English players, three West Indians, and one player apiece from India and Pakistan.

Although Bradman played his last Test in 1948, no batsman before or since has come anywhere near his staggering Test batting average of 99.94.

Also included is his compatriot Shane Warne, who during the 1990s established himself as arguably the greatest leg-spinner cricket has known.

Given that it is a UK-based publication built around the events of the previous English season, albeit one now encompassing the whole of senior international cricket, it is perhaps unsurprising there are four England players in the side.

## *WISDEN* WORLD - XI

1. Jack Hobbs – 61 Tests, 5,410 runs at 56.94
2. W. G. Grace – 22 Tests, 1,098 runs at 32.29
3. Don Bradman – 52 Tests, 6,996 runs at 99.94 (Captain)
4. Sachin Tendulkar – 198 Tests, 15,837 runs at 53.86
5. Vivian Richards – 121 Tests, 8,540 runs at 50.23
6. Garry Sobers – 93 Tests, 8,032 runs at 57.78, 235 wickets at 34.03
7. Alan Knott – 95 Tests, 4,389 runs at 32.75, 250 catches, 19 stumpings
8. Wasim Akram – 104 Tests, 414 wickets at 23.62
9. Shane Warne -145 Tests, 708 wickets at 25.41
10. Malcolm Marshall – 81 Tests, 376 wickets at 20.94
11. Sydney Barnes – 27 Tests, 189 wickets at 16.43

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# INDIAN CRICKETERS

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